るろに剣心

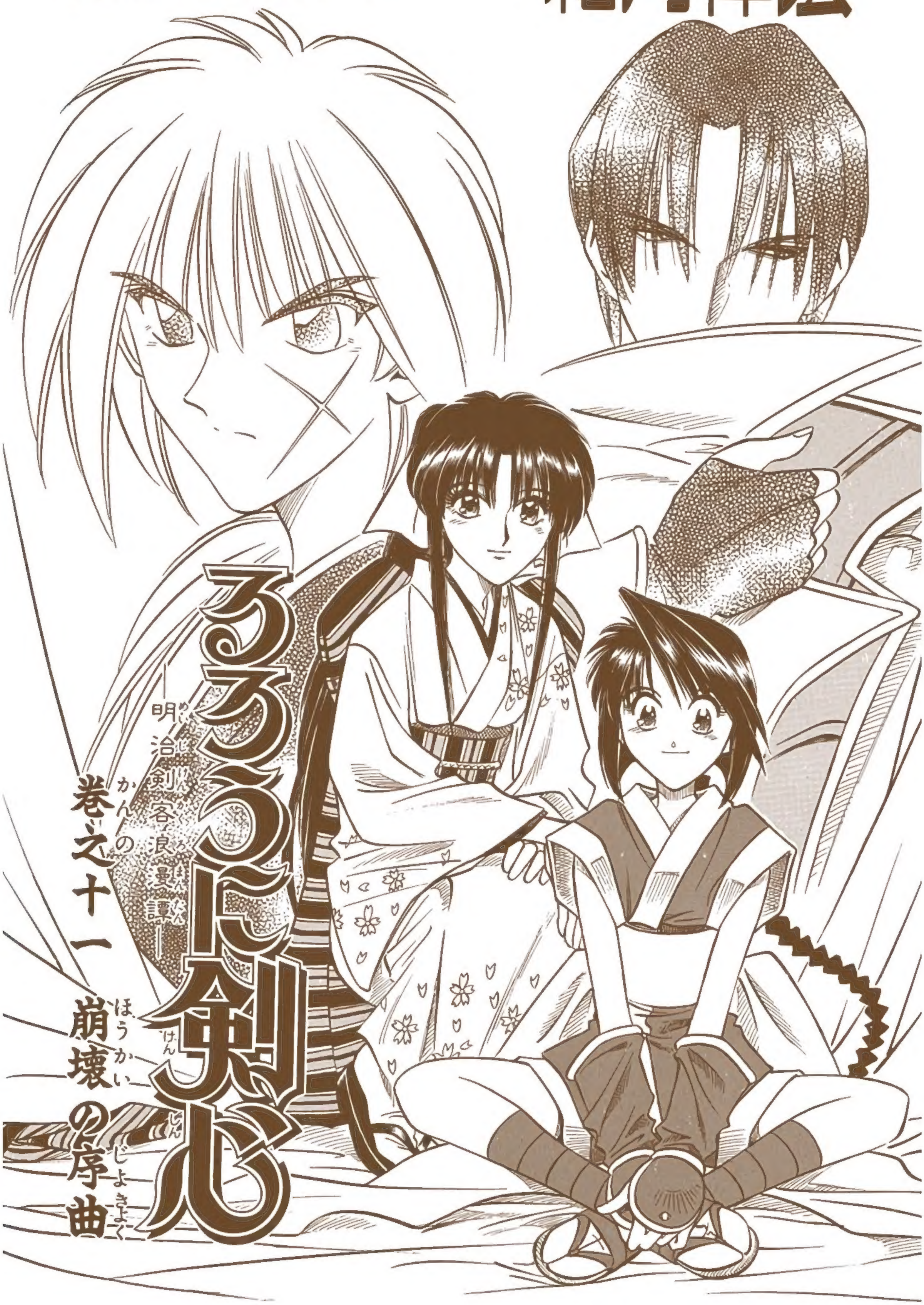
—明治剣客浪漫譚—

和月伸宏

★この作品はフィクションです。実在の人物・団体・事件などには、いっさい関係ありません。著者カラー原画に加え、著者の原画をもとに集英社でデジタル彩色を行った特別編集版です。

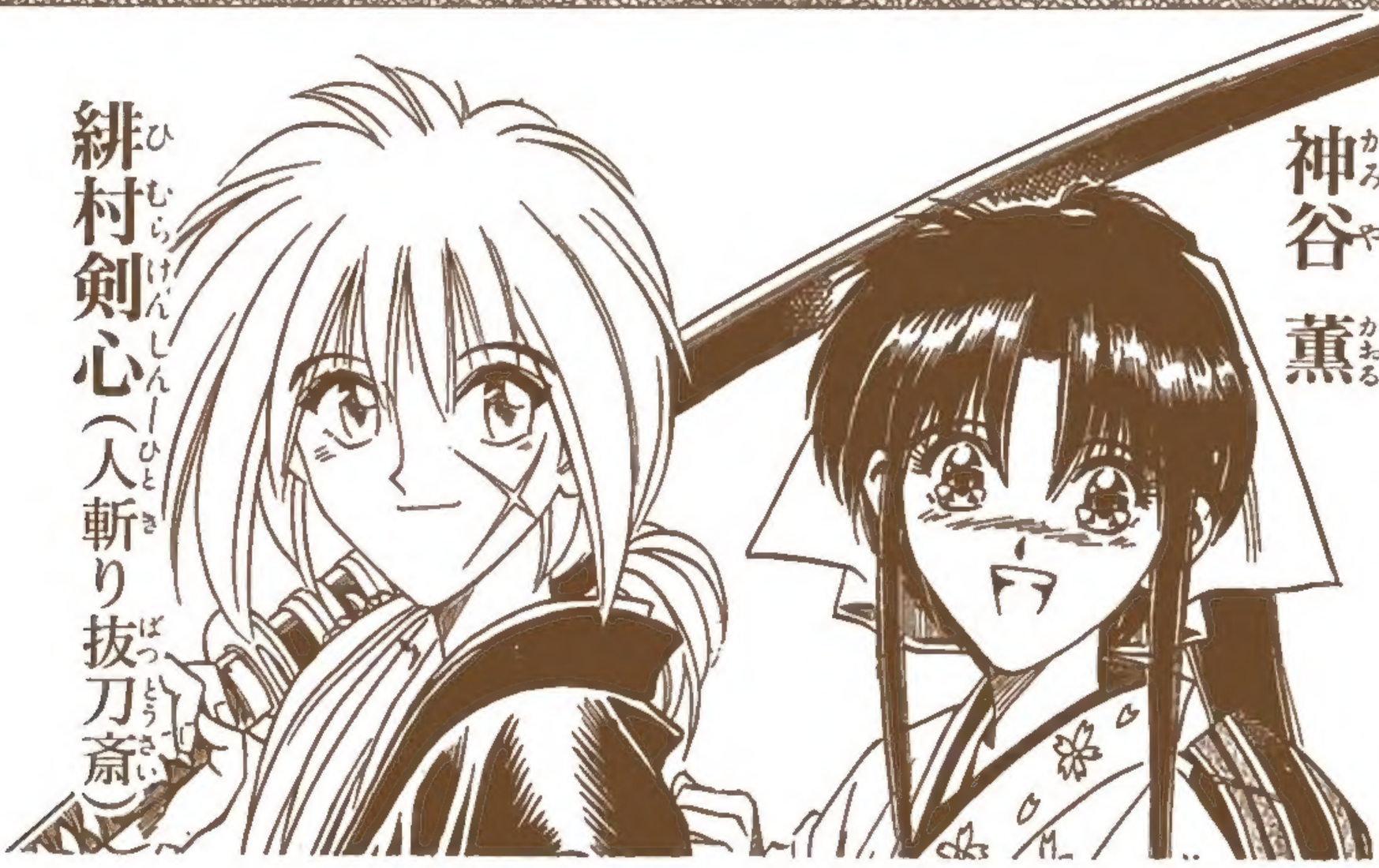
JUMP COMICS

和月伸宏
（わつきのぶひろ）



るろうに剣心
明治剣客浪漫譚
巻之十一
崩壊の序曲

登場人物紹介



緋村剣心（人斬り抜刀斎）

神谷薫

巻町操

明神弥彦

翁（柏崎念至）

比古清十郎

志々雄真実

四乃森蒼紫

るろうに剣心

斎藤一

相楽左之助

流浪人・緋村剣心――今でこそ、人を斬り殺すことを自らに禁じ、持つ刀は逆刃刀だが、彼こそは新時代・明治を切り拓いた維新志士の中で、最強無比の伝説を持つ「人斬り抜刀斎」、その人であった。

時の内務卿・大久保利道に、京都で暗躍する「人斬り抜刀斎」の後継者・志々雄真実の暗殺を依頼される剣心。薫達は行かせまいとするが、志々雄の配下で、「十本刀」の一人・瀬田宗次郎に大久保が暗殺され、剣心は京都に行く決心をする。操という少女と道連れになった剣心は、道中、早くも志々雄と対面。だが、志々雄は闘わずして去り、後に残った宗次郎との闘いで、逆刃刀を折られてしまう。京都に着いた剣心は、操の育ての親で元隠密御庭番衆・翁が営む料亭「葵屋」に世話になることに…。新しい逆刃刀を求め、今は亡き刀匠・新井赤空の息子・青空を訪ねるが、青空は刀造りをやめていた。ところが、赤空の最後の一振りを狙い、「十本刀」の一人、〝刀狩〟の張に、青空の息子が拉致される事件が起き、助けに行った剣心は、赤空の最後の一振りを手に闘うことになる。抜刀をためらう剣心だったが、子供を殺すという張の言葉に、ついに抜刀。不殺の誓いは破られたかに思われたが、赤空の最後の一振りは逆刃刀であった。その刀、逆刃刀・真打を託された剣心は、葵屋を出て、かつての師で、現・飛天御剣流継承者「比古清十郎」を訪ねる。十五年前、やり残した奥義伝授を願い出るが、「権力に与した者に奥義を得る資格なし」と断られ…。そこへ操に案内され、薫と弥彦が現れた。

10巻までのあらすじ

目次

るろうに剣心 —明治剣客浪漫譚— 巻之十一

第八十五幕「気持ち半分」七
第八十六幕「蒼紫と翁」二十七
第八十七幕「修羅の会合」四十七
第八十八幕「崩壊の序曲」六十七
第八十九幕「蒼紫対翁」八十七
第九十幕「鮮血の終焉」百七
第九十一幕「操の決意」百二十七
第九十二幕「トリとホウキと」百四十七
第九十三幕「その名は宇水」百六十七

Act 85
Half the Feeling

SOMEONE YOU KNOW?

NOT THAT I ASKED FOR ANY.

カチ…

WELL, WELL. SO MUCH COM-PANY TODAY.

GO GET WATER FROM THE STREAM.

KEN-SHIN.

……

YES.

SO YOU WANT *THEM* WALKING TO THE STREAM AT NIGHT?

BUT WHY MUST ...?

HUH?

I HAVE ONLY ENOUGH FOR ME.

THE CHILDREN MUSTN'T BE LEFT WITHOUT FOOD OR WATER.

...YOU HAVEN'T CHANGED A BIT.

NO, THIS ONE MEANS WHY NOT *YOU*?

QUIT WHINING AND GO! NOW!

.....

TYRANT...

WHAT ARE YOU JUST *STANDING* THERE FOR?!

RIGHT! WHEN SPEECH-LESS, JUST GO *PHYSICAL*!

しゅ…!

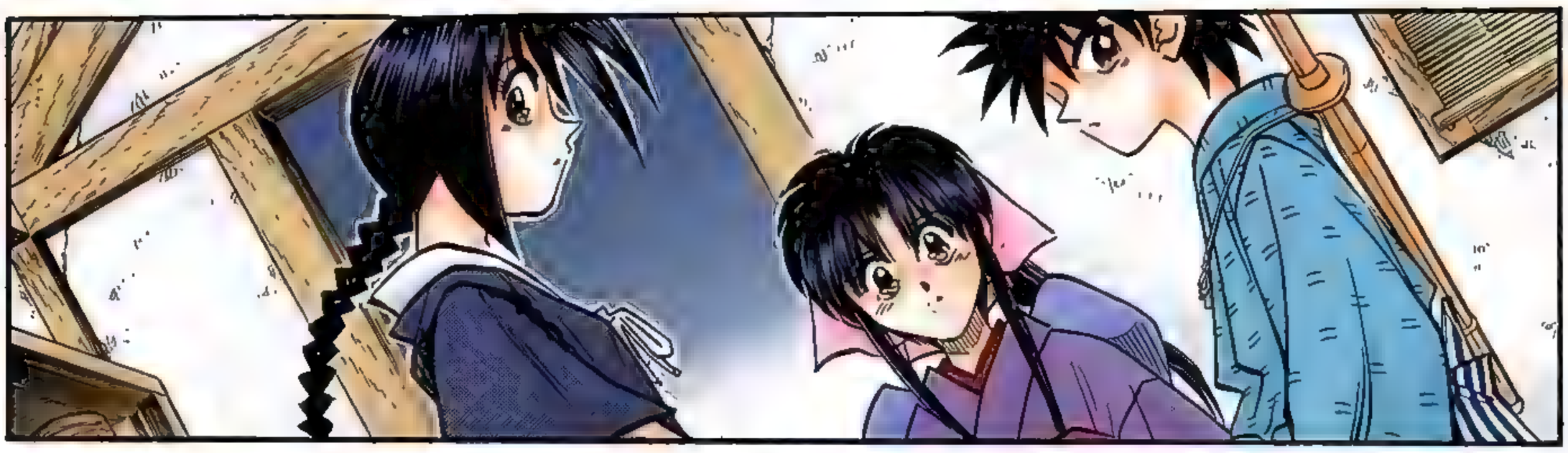
TRUE...

SO...

GUTLESS AS EVER.

パパパ

AUGH!



AH...

...THERE'S ONE THING WE DON'T KNOW.
STILL...
HIS MASTER ...
HE TAUGHT KENSHIN EVERY-THING.
MASTER OF HITEN MITSURUGI-RYŪ.
HIKO SEIJŪRŌ.

EH?
HOW OLD ARE YOU, ANYWAY?
.....

SO WHAT?

FORTY-THREE.

...MAY I SPEAK?

JUMP IN ANY-TIME.

YEAH. HE'S 28.

28?!

I'M GONNA LEARN IT, TOO!

WAIT...IS *HIMURA* OLDER THAN HE LOOKS, TOO?

I GET IT— HITEN MITSURUGI IS THE SECRET TO *ETERNAL YOUTH!!*

JUST LIKE KENSHIN! WHAT *IS* IT WITH HITEN MITSURUGI-RYŪ...?

WHY ARE YOU HERE?

I UNDERSTAND YOU'RE KENSHIN'S FRIENDS, BUT...

TO BRING KAORU TO KENSHIN.

GO AHEAD.

YUP.

TO BRING KAORU TO HIMURA.

TO...

AND?

.....

TO SEE KENSHIN.

BUT...

BUT...

OR TELL HIM HOW YOU FEEL?!

LIKE GO BACK TO TOKYO ...?!

AND WHAT COMES AFTER ...?!

BUT ...!

OR FIGHT ALONG-SIDE HIM?!

AND ?!

AND ...?

...THOUGHT I'D NEVER SEE HIM AGAIN.

AT THE TIME, I REALLY...

I...

閉禁

AT SHIROBEKO, I THOUGHT I WAS GOING TO BELT HIM, BUT WHEN I SAW HIS FACE...

I LEFT TOKYO TO SEE HIM AGAIN... THAT PART IS TRUE.

YES.

YES, I SEE.

MY APPRENTICE, IT SEEMS, IS QUITE POPULAR...

...FOR A STUBBORN, SELF-WILLED *MULE*, THAT IS.

WHAT DO YOU MEAN, "MULE"?!

YAHIKO !

スイ

THE KENSHIN *WE* KNOW IS NO MULE!

MAYBE YOU *WERE* HIS MASTER—BUT YOU HAVEN'T KNOWN HIM FOR YEARS!

THAT IS WHAT I WANT TO KNOW...

THE IDIOT STUDENT WHO DISAPPEARED AT THE BEGINNING OF MEIJI.

WHAT'S HE DONE WITH HITEN MITSURUGI-RYŪ?

REALLY? DO TELL. TELL ME ALL ABOUT THE FOOL.

FOOL ?!

"...SANO-SUKE MUST BE COMING, TOO."

WELL, DUH, STUPID

"WITH KAORU-DONO AND YAHIKO IN KYOTO...

ANOTHER COMPLI-CATION IN THE FIGHT AGAINST SHISHIO.

"...BUT FROM THOSE WHO HAVE *WATCHED* HIM."

"...AND NOT FROM HIM...

?

SO. FOR 10 YEARS, YOU'VE BEEN WANDERING THE COUNTRY, AS RUROUNI, HELPING PEOPLE.

WHERE DO YOU WANT THE—?

DID YOU FINALLY INTERNALIZE THE TEACHINGS OF HITEN MITSURUGI ON YOUR OWN...

...OR ARE YOU ATONING FOR ALL THE *DEATHS* YOU'VE CAUSED?

IF THERE ARE PEOPLE CLEARLY SUFFERING, FOR WHATEVER REASON, THEY *CANNOT* BE IGNORED.

ONE OTHER THING WAS SAID, BEFORE WE FOUGHT AND PARTED 15 YEARS AGO.

BOTH ...

...MASTER.

THEN COME! I WILL TEACH YOU—

WHEN IT MATTERS, MY MULE OF A STUDENT *CAN* TALK LIKE A MAN.

SO.

—HITEN MITSURUGI-RYŪ'S FINAL SECRET!

!

AND I *DON'T* HAVE TIME TO TRAIN ANOTHER APPRENTICE.

MASTER...

AFTER ALL, SHISHIO MUSTN'T BE LEFT AS THE *ONLY* HITEN MITSURUGI STUDENT.

...BUT AT THIS POINT IN MY CAREER, I'M IN A DIFFERENT PLACE.

MASTER...

IT'D BE EASIEST TO TAKE CARE OF HIM MYSELF...

STOP SHISHIO MAKOTO.

NO, THIS JOB FALLS TO YOU.

KENSHIN
!

ARE YOU ANGRY...?

YOU TOLD ME NOT TO COME, BUT I DID.

BUT THE OTHER HALF IS...

...HALF.

...KIND OF RELIEVED.

THERE'S NO TELLING WHERE SHISHIO'S MEN MAY BE LURKING.

PROMISE YOU'LL BE CAREFUL.

...I'M WAITING FOR YOU TO TURN AROUND AND SMILE...

KENSHIN...

NEVER FEAR, WE'RE HERE!!

...BUT...

...BUT...

チ
チ
チ

ONCE YOU KNOW THIS LAST SECRET, YOU'LL STAND BESIDE ME IN SKILL.

BEFORE WE BEGIN OUR TRAINING, THERE'S SOMETHING I MUST SAY.

.....

AROUND MY *ANKLES*. MAYBE.

...WELL, MAYBE NOT *THAT* HIGH.

STILL, DON'T LET THAT MAKE YOU OVER-CONFIDENT!

THIS SO-CALLED "AGE OF MEIJI" IS NOT SO SIMPLE...

...THAT ONE MAN'S SELF-SACRIFICE CAN *SAVE* IT.

...MASTER. ARE YOU ...?

BUT *NOTHING'S* THAT SIMPLE, IS IT.

NO SKILL WILL MAKE YOU A *GOD.*

REMEMBER— NO MATTER *HOW* SKILLED YOU BECOME, YOU'RE STILL A HUMAN BEING.

IF YOU DIE FIGHTING FOR THE HAPPINESS OF OTHERS, HOW MISERABLE WILL THAT GIRL WHO CAME HERE TO SEE YOU BE?

HMM...

YOU'VE BEEN GROANING FOR A WHILE.

SOME-THING WRONG, YAHIKO?

CONSTI-PATED?

SHUT UP, STUPID!

I WAS S'PPOSED TO TELL KENSHIN SOME-THING...

HMM ...

...OH!

OUR TALK IS OVER.

NOW, WE BEGIN.

THAT KILLER'S IN KYOTO—AND HE'S LOOKING FOR KENHSIN!

IT'S AOSHI! SHINOMORI AOSHI!!

.....

THIS WAS DONE BY KOJOZERO SCANS

EDITED BY: KOJOZERO
AND ANONYMOUS SUSHI

IF YOU'D LIKE TO HELP WITH
OUR PROJECTS OR JUST
WANT TO KEEP UP WITH THEM,
HERE'S OUR DISCORD
https://discord.gg/Mkm2PvB3Qg

Act 86
Aoshi & Okina

SHINOMORI AOSHI!

"SHINO-MORI" AS IN.

...HEAD... OF THE ONIWABAN-SHŪ...?

I *KNOW* IT WAS HIM!

I ONLY GOT A GLIMPSE THROUGH THE CROWD, BUT—

HERE! COMING TO KYOTO!!

!?

ガッ

IS THIS TRUE?!

NO LIE?!

OWW! WHAT'RE YOU DOIN'?!

...

...

"SAMA" ?!

AOSHI ...

IS AOSHI-SAMA *REALLY* COMING TO KYOTO?!

YAHIKO!

GET BACK, KAORU!

SHE'S ONE OF THE ONIWABANSHŪ!!

WHY ARE YOU AFTER KENSHIN ?!

IS IT AOSHI'S ORDERS ?!

OR TO AVENGE HAN'NYA, AND THE REST??

!

WHAT WENT ON BETWEEN AOSHI-SAMA AND HIMURA?!

WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?!

...ORDERS ...?

...AVENGE ...?!

WHAT HAPPENED TO THE ONIWABANSHŪ ??

DON'T YOU PLAY DUMB WITH ME!

—CALM DOWN. NOW.

むぎゅっ

もぎゅっ

BOTH OF YOU—

ALL RIGHT.

I'LL TELL YOU EVERY-THING.

THERE ARE VISITORS FOR YOU AT THE DOOR.

YOU DON'T HAVE TO YELL. WHAT IS IT?

OKINA!

OKINA!

WHOEVER IT IS, HAVE THEM COME BACK ANOTHER DAY.

I'M NOT FEELING UP TO COMPANY.

WHY DIDN'T YOU TELL ME SOONER ?!

THEY'RE YOUNG LADIES.

UM... ARE YOU SURE?

葵屋

AOI-YA

WHO KNOWS? WHO CARES!

ドドド

SOME-ONE YOU KNOW?

ろw たった

OLD GOAT.

……

ちゃうちゃうがなろ 再び

WE WERE ASKED TO GIVE YOU THIS—

OH— HELLO!

遊んでません……

HE WAS REALLY SERIOUS.

A VERY HANDSOME GENTLE-MAN.

THANKS. WHO WAS IT?

…HOW BORING.

BUT HAND-SOME. ♡

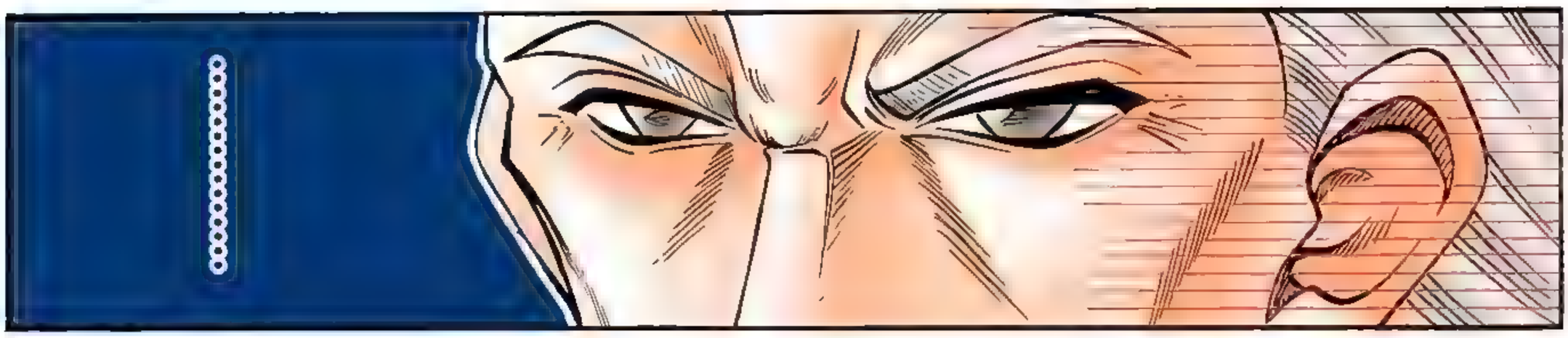
ぬ

蒼

AOSHI

蒼

1307



IT'S JUST THE TWO OF US, SO I'LL SKIP THE POLITENESS.

LONG TIME NO SEE.

A WASTE OF BOTH OUR TIME.

PLEASE DO.

...SORRY FOR THE WAIT.

WHY DIDN'T YOU STOP BY AOI-YA?

MISAO WOULD'VE LOVED TO SEE YOU.

GOT IT!

ROASTED TEA AND RICE CAKE.

THE LOVELY GIRL LEFT TO US BY OUR GREAT PREDECESSOR..

...NATURALLY, WE ALL WANT TO 'ROTECT HER.

AH..

I LEFT MISAO AT AOI-YA TO KEEP HER OUT OF *DANGER.*

I'VE NO *INTENTION* OF SEEING HER.

HIMURA BATTŌSAI.

WHAT'S YOUR BUSINESS ?

I'D LIKE YOU TO LOOK FOR SOMEONE. HE SHOULD BE IN KYOTO, BUT I CAN'T SEARCH THE CITY ALONE.

THE NAME?

MISAO RAN OFF TO FIND YOU. HIMURA-KUN BROUGHT HER BACK TO KYOTO SAFELY.

I HEARD IT ALL FROM HIMURA-KUN HIMSELF.

OF COURSE, HE'S LEFT AOI-YA ALREADY. I DON'T KNOW *WHERE* HE IS.

WAKE UP. KILLING HIMURA-KUN...

...WON'T BRING BACK HAN'NYA OR THE OTHERS.

...BUT REST, FOR YOUR SOUL.

WHAT YOU NEED RIGHT NOW ISN'T ANOTHER BATTLE...

AOSHI, LISTEN.

WHY DON'T YOU LAY THE BLADE DOWN FOR A BIT.

...THE BASE OF THE LIGHT-HOUSE IS DARK...

...NO ONE UNDER-STANDS HOW I FEEL.

EVEN WITHIN THE ONI-WABANSHŪ...

Hff

Fw

...MY BATTLE WILL NOT END.

UNTIL WE REGAIN THE GLORY THAT COMES WITH BEING THE BEST...

IF YOU FORGET THE DIGNITY OF THE ONIWABANSHŪ AND BECOME JUST ANOTHER KILLER...

...THEN IT WAS *MY* MISTAKE TO HAVE MADE YOU OKASHIRA.

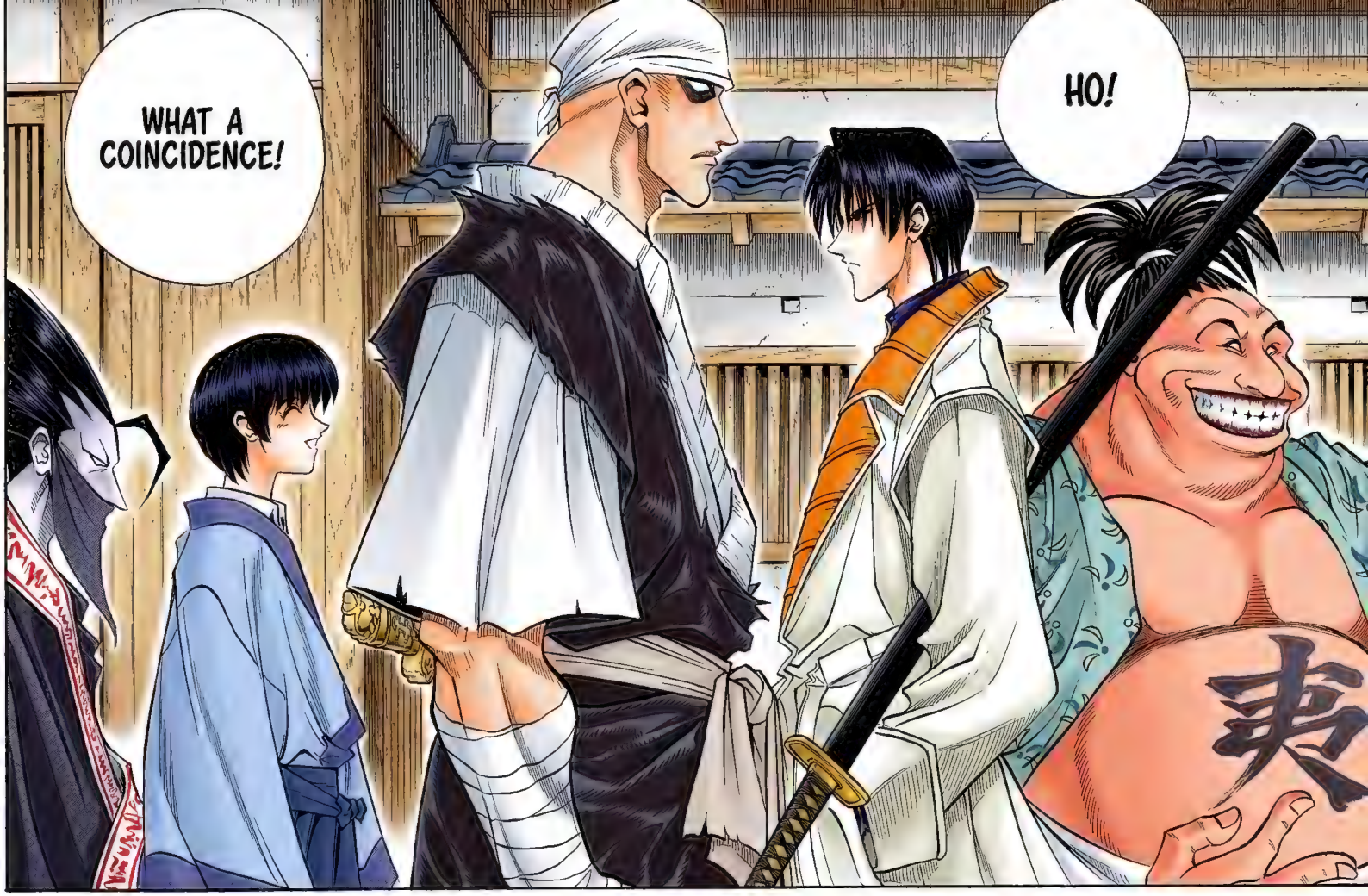
AOSHI. I'LL TELL YOU ONE LAST THING.

MISAO'S LOVE ASIDE, WHEN THE TIME COMES...

...I WILL CRUSH YOU, WITH *ALL* MY MIGHT.

DON'T BE CUTE. WHO WAS LISTENING IN ON OUR TALK OVER THERE?
SO PARANOID! WE GOT TO KYOTO JUST THIS MORNING.

IT WAS "JUST THIS MORNING" THAT I BEGAN TO FEEL SOMEONE WATCHING ME FROM THE SHADOWS.
A COINCIDENCE, INDEED.
.....


WHAT A COINCIDENCE!
HO!

THAT
SO YOU HAVE COME TO KYOTO.

.....

SO WILL YOU COME WITH US NOW?

REALLY! I APOLOGIZE!

I'M SORRY, I'M SORRY!

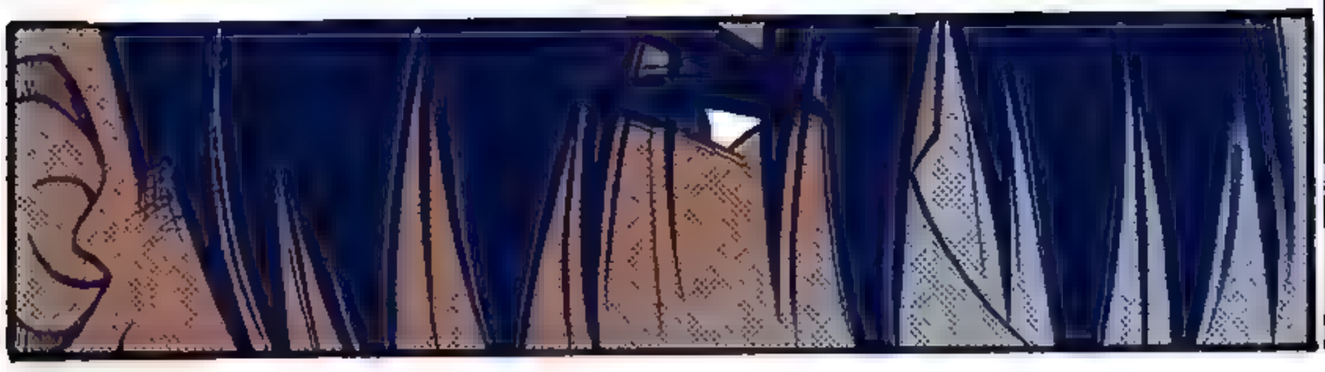
...I DON'T WISH TO BE WITH ANYONE.

AS I'VE TOLD YOU...

I WANT YOU TO MEET WITH SHISHIO-SAN, JUST THIS ONCE.

IT'S NOT ABOUT "BEING" WITH ANYONE.

……



AS YOU WISH...

...I WILL MEET WITH SHISHIO MAKOTO.

IT SOUNDED LIKE YOUR TALK JUST NOW WENT BADLY.

BUT OUR INFORMATION ISN'T BAD, EITHER.

I THINK IT SHOULD BE *WORTH* TAKING A LOOK AT.

IF YOU FORGET THE DIGNITY OF THE ONIWABANSHŪ.

...VERY WELL.

LEAD ON.

THIS WAS DONE BY KOJOZERO SCANS

EDITED BY: KOJOZERO
AND ANONYMOUS SUSHI

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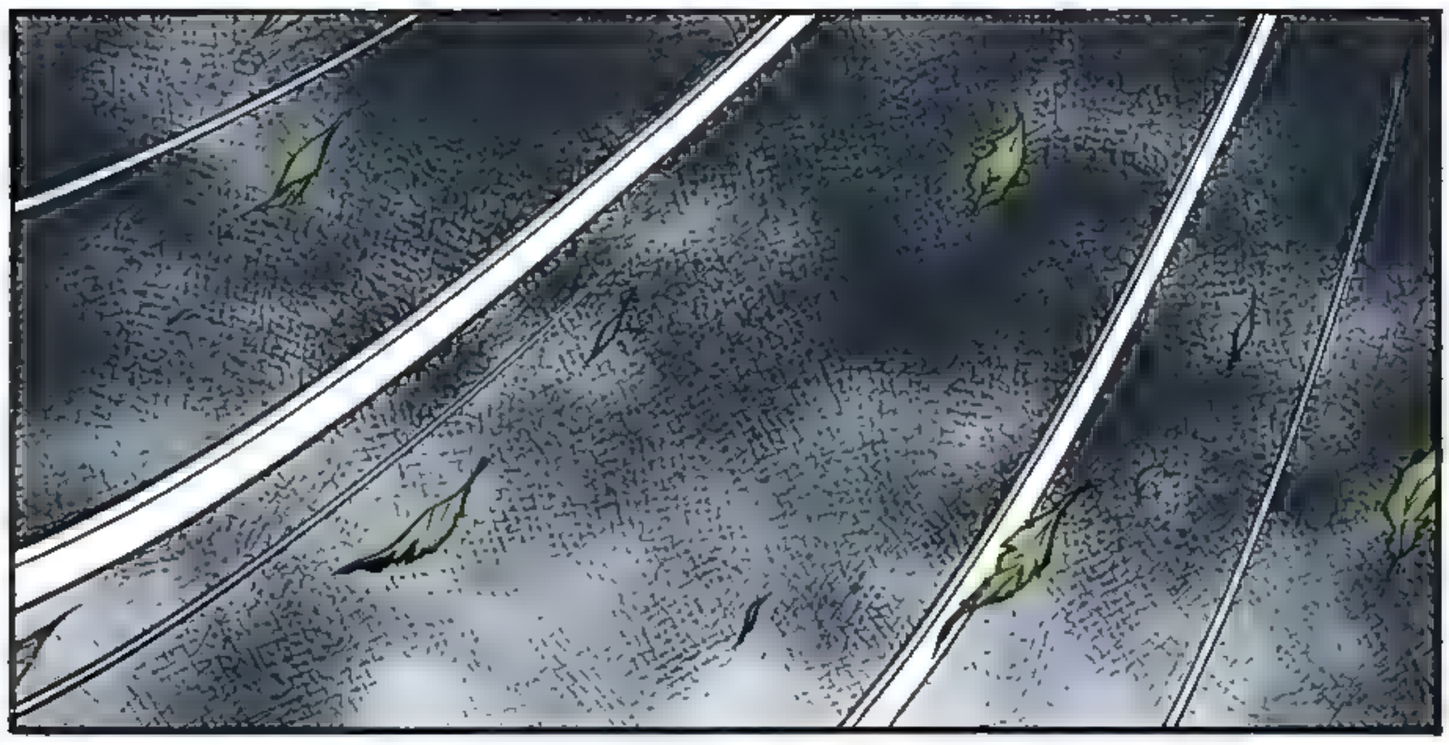
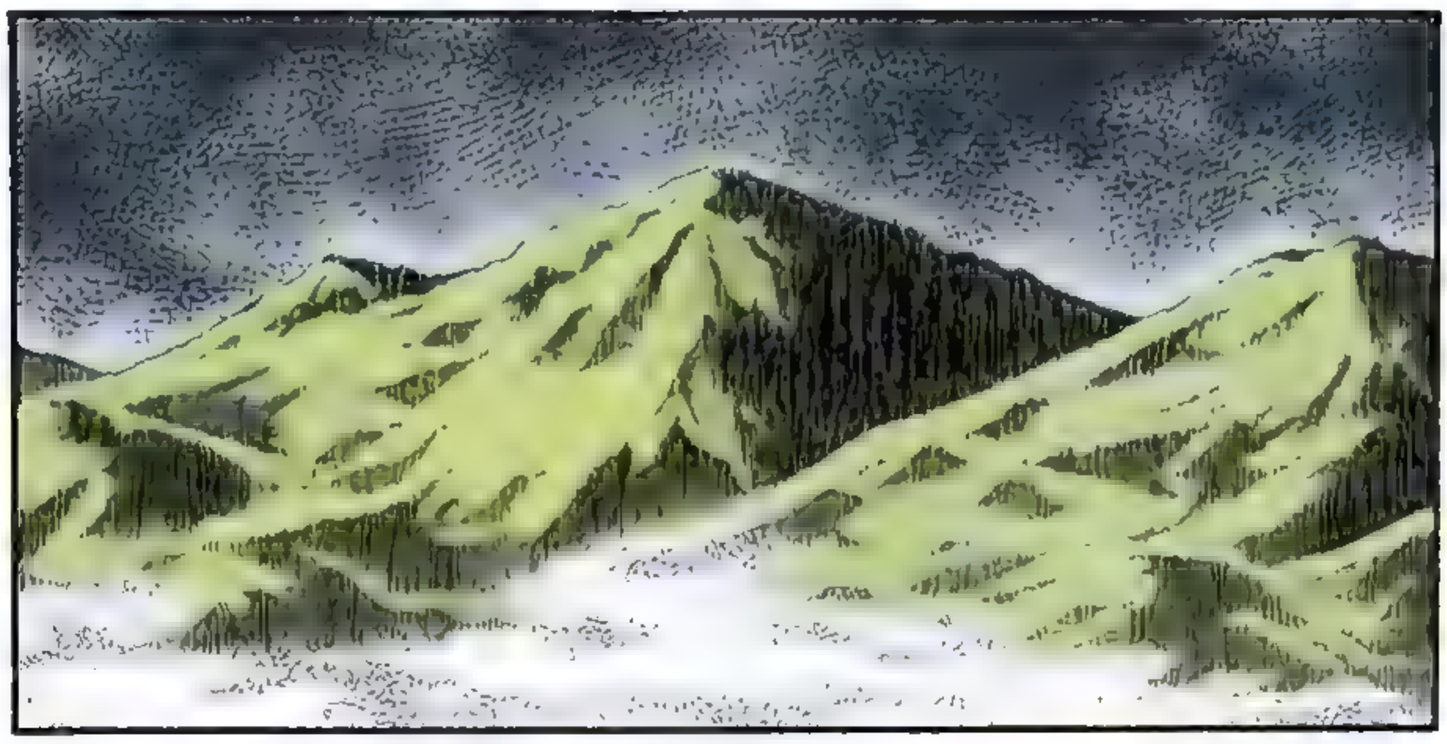
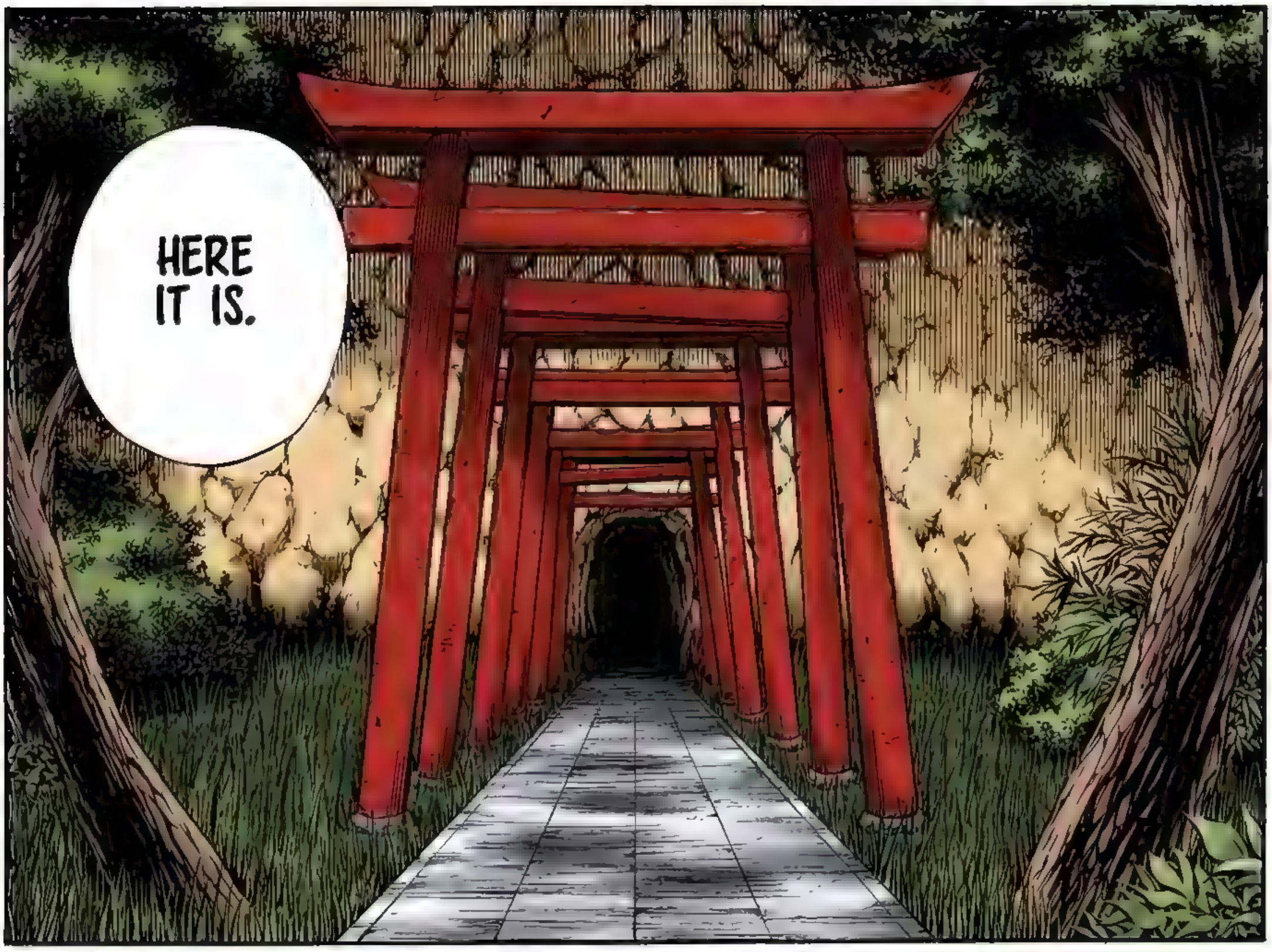


FROM THE CITY OF KYOTO, UNDER THE SKIES TO THE NORTHEAST, PAST THE "DEMON GATE"...

...STANDS MT. HIEI, LEGENDARY AS A SPIRITUAL SITE. AND ON ONE SHOULDER OF IT...





Act 87—Meeting of the Warlords

PLEASE, COME IN.
……
カッ
カッ
Act 87
Meeting of the Warlords

SHISHIO-SAMA IS NOT HERE.

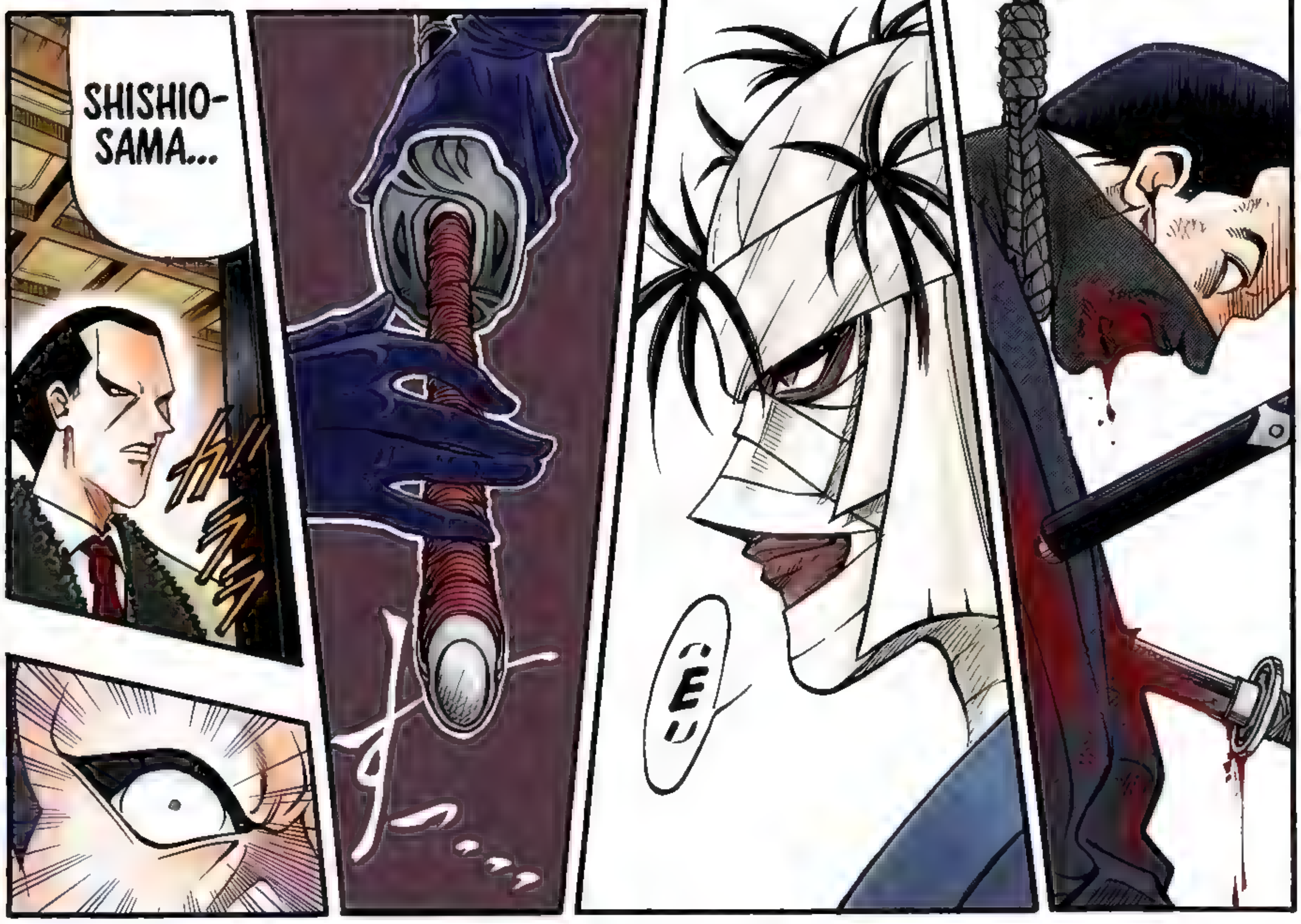
LORD SHISHIO.

I DON'T KNOW.

THEN WHERE HAS HE...?

BUT HE SAID HIS *BLOOD* IS BOILING...

...SO HE'S PROBABLY IN THE *TRAINING ROOM.*


SHISHIO-
SAMA...
ぇ!!

るろうに剣心
明治剣客浪漫譚

NOT ONLY COULDN'T I SEE THE BLADE, EVEN HIS *MOVEMENT* WENT UNSEEN.

OHH ...!

THE FIRE

WHAT ...?

DID YOU COME HERE JUST TO SPY ON MY MOVES?

HAVE YOU SOMETHING, HŌJI, OR...?

Y... YES...

THE FIRST OF YOUR SECRET STRIKES– "FLAMING SOUL"!

NOW *THAT'S* BEEN A WHILE...

...BRINGING WITH ME THE JUPPONGATANA FROM EAST JAPAN.

HERE I AM, SHISHIO-SAMA...

NOW, NOW...NO BEING MAD.

I THOUGHT I SHOULD TELL YOU SŌJIRŌ'S RETURNED, AND...

HEH.

AND IWANBŌ. YOU LOOK AS STUPID AS EVER.

HENYA. I'VE MADE YOU WAIT LONG. YOU DIDN'T LET YOUR SKILLS GET RUSTY, DID YOU?

LONG TIME NO SEE, ANJI. HAVE YOU FINISHED YOUR TRAINING?

HOO-HOO! ♡

HA.

YES.

NOW, THEN...

I'VE COME ONLY FOR INFORMATION ON BATTOSAI.

SO THERE'S NO MISUNDER-STANDING. I'LL TELL YOU AT THE START.

THE FIRST *STRANGER* HERE IS YOU. WELCOME

I HAVE NO INTEN-TION...

...OF JOINING YOU.

AH.

I'VE NO PROBLEM WITH THAT.

HOO ?

AND THOSE WHO WON'T MINGLE WITH OTHERS...

THERE ARE THOSE WHO STAND ATOP OTHERS.

THOSE WHO FOLLOW THEM.

I HAVE A PET THEORY...

...THAT EVERY MAN'S LIFE MATCHES NATURE.

...TO LIVE IN SOLITUDE.

A LONE WOLF WILL LEAD TO THE DESTRUCTION OF ANY ORGANIZATION.

I'VE NO NEED OF ONE LIKE YOU AS A SUBORDINATE.

SO HOW ABOUT THIS...?

AND YET, WE LIKE YOU AS YOU ARE.

WE'LL TELL YOU ALL WE KNOW OF BATTŌSAI...

THAT WILL HELP US, TOO.

YOU CAN FIGHT BATTŌSAI AS YOU WISH.

JUST THINK OF IT AS A PARALLEL.

YOU DON'T NEED TO JOIN US

DON'T SKIP AHEAD.

...IF I HELP DEFEAT BATTŌSAI IN RETURN.

.....

...DO YOU KNOW OF BATTŌSAI?

AND WHAT...

THEN THERE'S NO DEAL.

BEYOND HIS BATTLE WITH CHŌ, NOTHING.

...THERE IS *ONE* THING.

IF WE ATTACK AOI-YA AND CONDUCT A TORTURE OR TWO...I'M SURE HE'LL SAY *SOMETHING.*

THE OLD MAN YOU WERE JUST TALKING TO.

HE DEFINITELY HAD SOME CONTACT WITH HIMURA.

HMM.

WELL, THEN...

...WHAT *SHALL* WE DO?

AND YOU'RE SURE THAT YOU...?

YES.

MISAO SLEEPING?

...SHE'LL BE VERY SAD IF YOU'RE NOT THERE.

WHEN SHE WAKES IN THE MORNING...

I'M LEAVING MISAO TO OKINA. DON'T WORRY ABOUT HER.

WHAT OF THE REST OF YOU, ARE YOU SURE THIS IS WHAT...?

WE'RE LOW-LIFES... ALL WE CAN *DO* IS FIGHT.

IN THESE TIMES OF PEACE, LOOKING FOR TROUBLE IS ALL THAT'S LEFT.

THERE'LL BE NO WORKING WITH CUSTOMERS HERE.

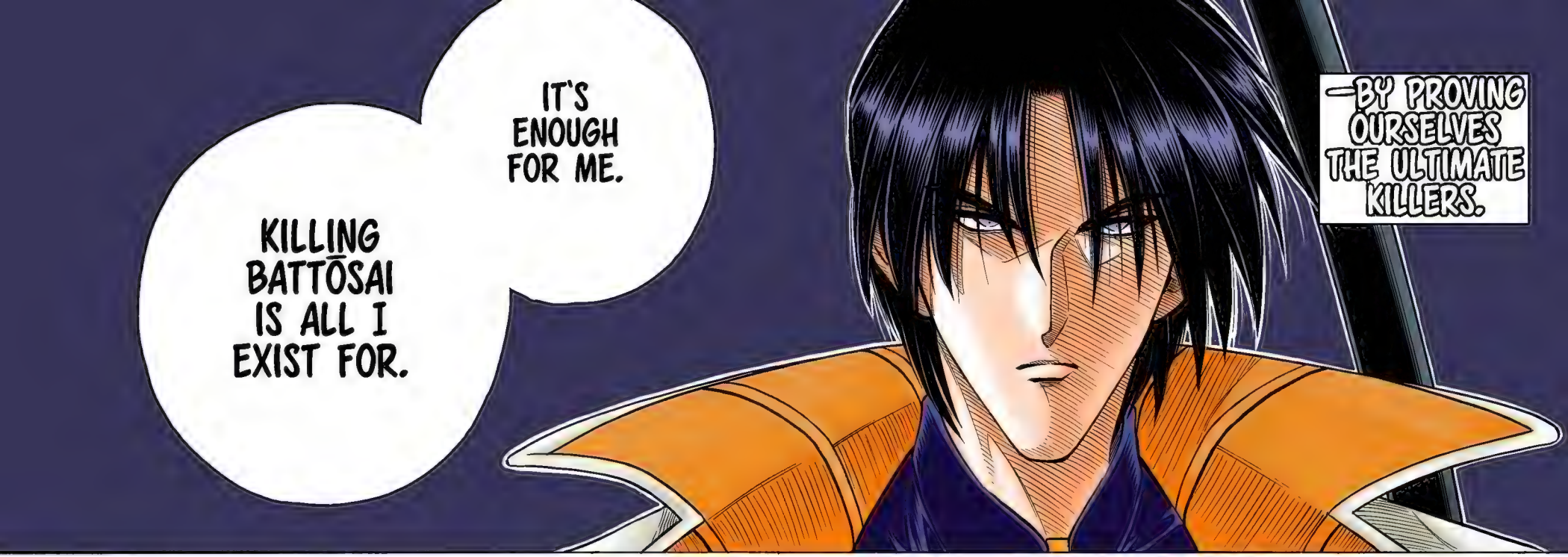
WILL YOU STOP, ALREADY?

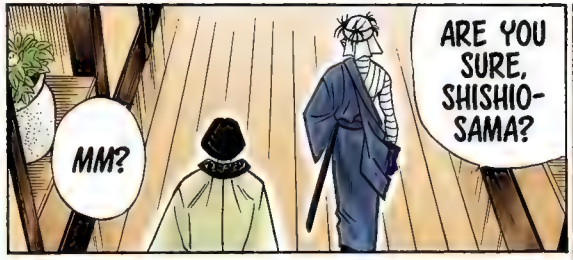
NOT ONLY THAT, WE'LL BE IN THE WAY.

IN THAT CASE...

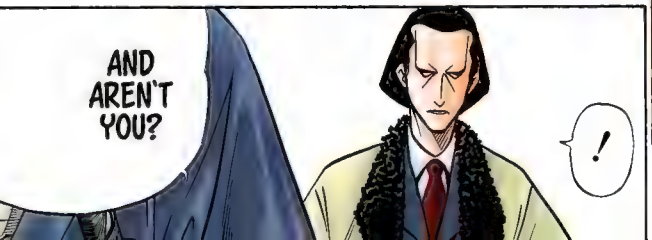
LET THE FIVE OF US MARK THE *END* OF THE ONIWABANSHŪ— GLORIOUSLY—

VERY WELL. I'LL SAY NO MORE.

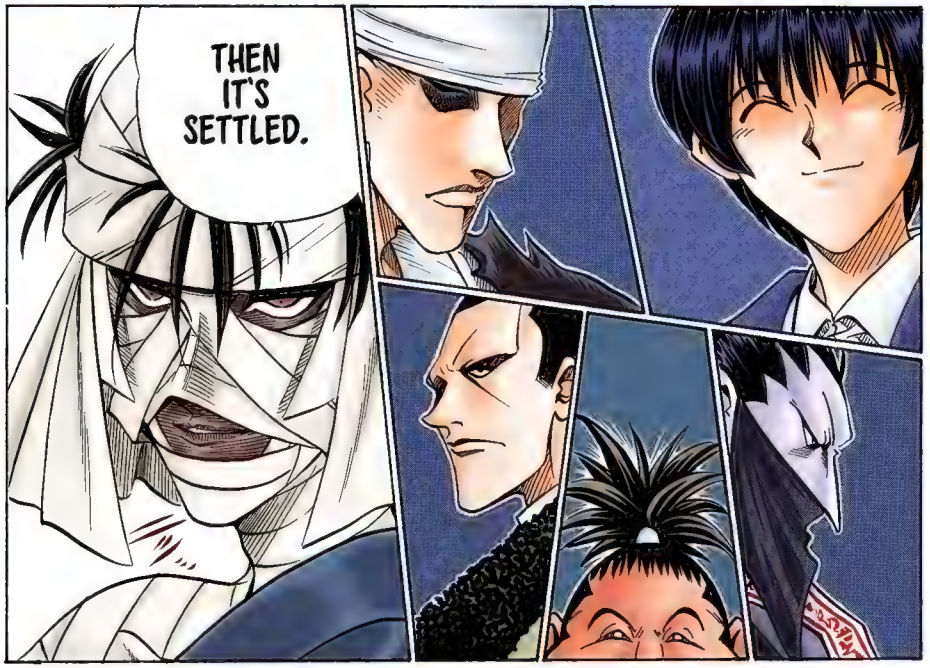

KILLING BATTŌSAI IS ALL I EXIST FOR.
IT'S ENOUGH FOR ME.
—BY PROVING OURSELVES THE ULTIMATE KILLERS.


MM?
ARE YOU SURE, SHISHIO-SAMA?

...TO ABANDON HIS OLD COMRADES LIKE THAT...IT MAKES HIM TWISTED.
THE MAN SEEMS SKILLED, YES, BUT...


AND AREN'T YOU?
!

SŌJIRŌ, PREPARE A ROOM FOR OUR IMPORTANT GUEST.
SURE.
HŌJI, CHOOSE SOLDIERS FOR YOUR STRIKE ON AOI-YA.
THE REST OF YOU, DO AS YOU'D LIKE.


THEN IT'S SETTLED.

IN THESE TIMES OF COMPROMISE...

...HOW ELSE CAN A WARRIOR SURVIVE?

...YES.

AREN'T ALL OF US...

FAIR ENOUGH.

...JUST AS TWISTED?

PRETTY FIERCE OUT THERE TONIGHT.

AND SO...

OKINA'S A LITTLE STRANGE THESE DAYS.

THAT'S ODD. HE LIKES TO STAY UP LATE.

ALREADY SLEEPING, I GUESS.

OMASU, WHERE'S OKINA?

ALL RIGHT. LET'S GO TO SLEEP.

NOT THAT HIS STRANGE-NESS IS ANYTHING NEW!

HA! WELL SAID.

葵

...DANGER APPROACHES AOI-YA.

Lo

THIS WAS DONE BY KOJOZERO SCANS

EDITED BY: KOJOZERO
AND ANONYMOUS SUSHI

IF YOU'D LIKE TO HELP WITH
OUR PROJECTS OR JUST
WANT TO KEEP UP WITH THEM,
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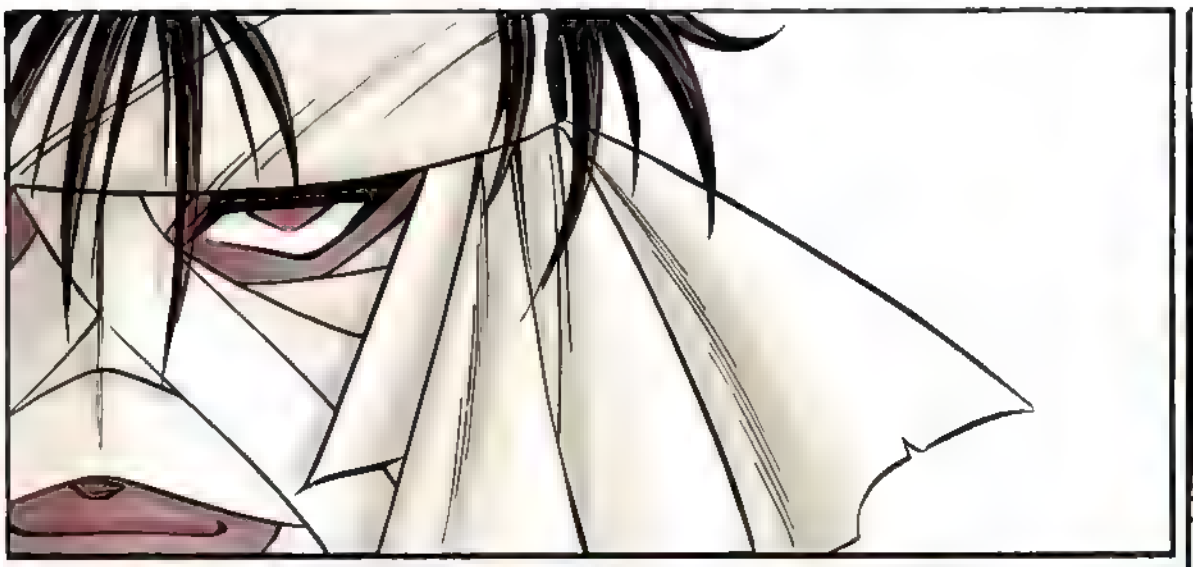
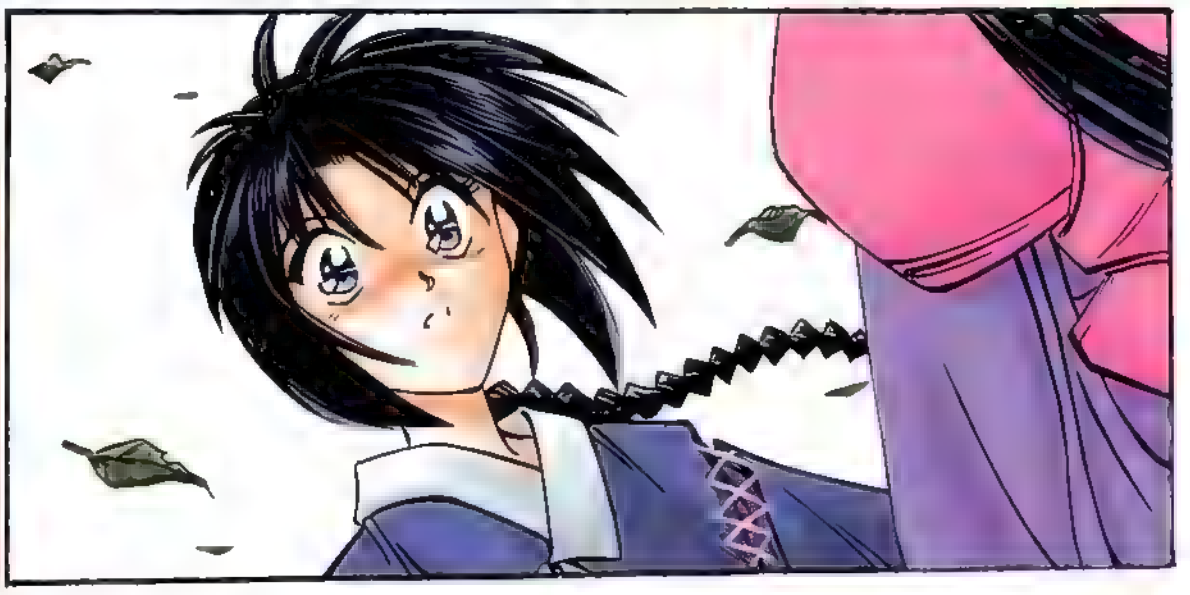
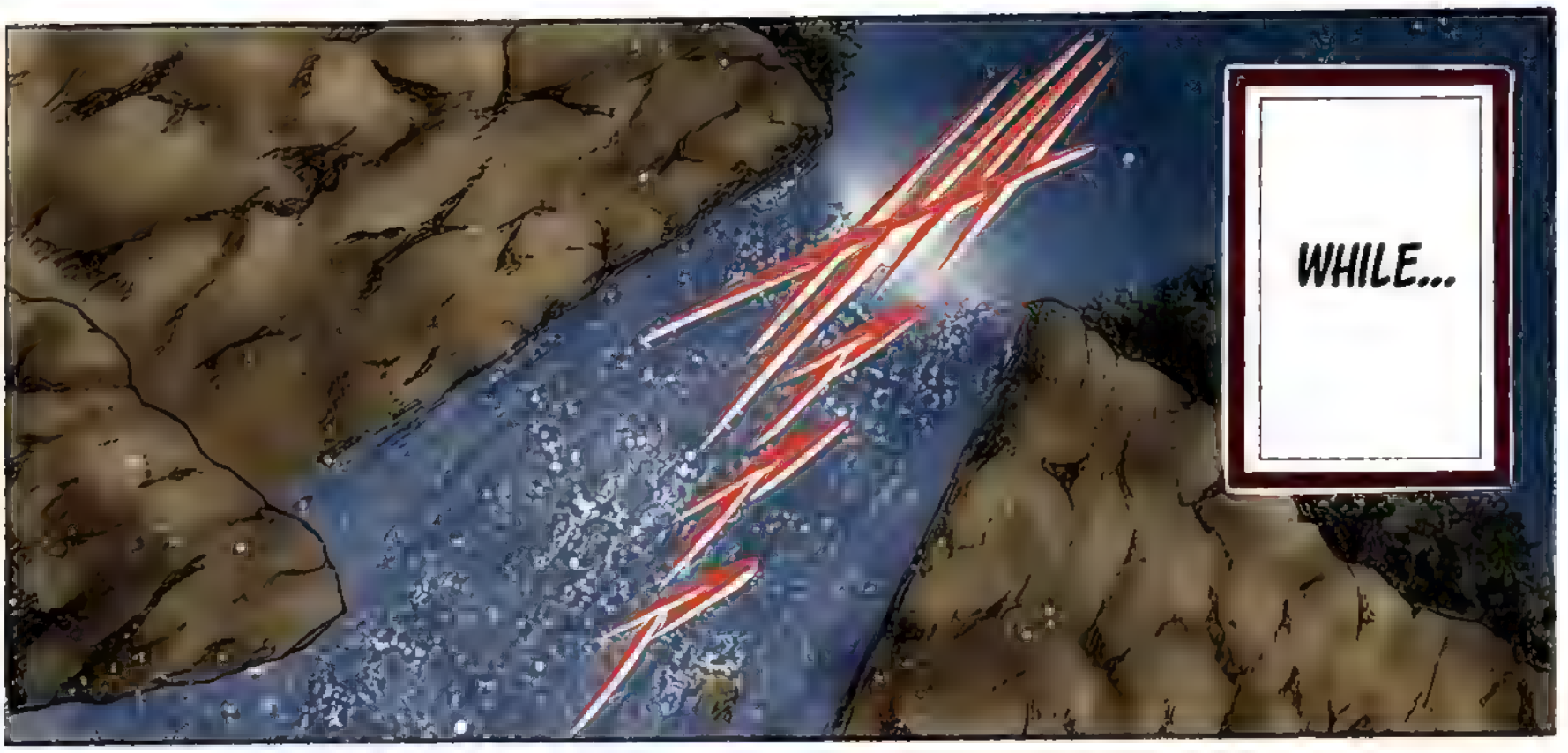
Act 88—Overture to Destruction



THE RUIN OF THE ONIWABANSHŪ ONMITSU—SLOWLY, IT CREEPS UP ON AOI-YA...





WHILE...

第八十八幕「崩壊の序曲」

OHHHH!!

GUH...

HEAP

YOU DEPEND TOO MUCH ON REACTION SPEED.

JUST BECAUSE I'VE RAISED MY SWORD...

...DOESN'T MEAN I'LL *SWING* IT.

SHISHIO'S HANDS MAY BE REACHING FOR EVERYONE AS WE SPEAK.

JUST TEACH ME THE—

THERE IS NO TIME FOR THIS.

I NEVER IMAGINED YOUR SKILLS COULD BE THIS RUSTY.

I WAS RIGHT TO TEST YOUR STRENGTH BEFORE-HAND.

DRAWING THE SWORD FROM A DETACHED SHEATH...

TWO-PART BATTŌJUTSU, HITEN MITSURUGI-RYŪ... **SŌRYŪSEN...** TWIN-DRAGON SPARK!

THE FIRST STRIKE— WITH THE SHEATH?!

!!

THE *OTHER* TWO-PART BATTŌ-JUTSU...

—WHERE THE *BLADE* STRIKE FOLLOWS THAT OF THE *SHEATH!*

THIS IS THE MOVE—

SŌRYŪSEN IKAZUCHI— TWIN-DRAGON LIGHTNING!

双龍閃雷

そうりゅうせんいかづち

SO YOU THOUGHT TO ACQUIRE THE ULTIMATE TECHNIQUE OF HITEN MITSURUGI-RYŪ...

...EH, MY IDIOT PUPIL?!

HF

HF

I REVERSED MY BLADE ON PURPOSE. HURRY UP AND STRIKE.

HM? WHAT'S WRONG.

FIRST, LAND A HIT ON ME.

THEN WE'LL START ON THE SECRET.

HF

HF

HF

HF

HF

...BUT NOT HIS *EYES.*

HMF

HIS *MOVEMENTS* ARE RUSTY...

THAT'LL MAKE TROUNCING-

—STRIKE THAT, I MEAN *TRAINING*— YOU WORTH MY TIME.

IT'S JUST AS WHEN WE TRAINED IN HITEN MITSURUGI-RYŪ.

"TROUNCING"?

WHAT?

IF YOU STALL NOW...

...THEN IT *WILL* BE TOO LATE FOR YOUR FRIENDS.

NOTHING. COME AT ME NOW.

YOU SAID THERE'S "NO TIME."

...OWL CLAN?

...INTO A NIGHT-RAIDING UNIT...

WE'VE TRAINED THOSE WITH SUPERIOR NIGHT-VISION...

OWLS ARE MORE THAN ENOUGH TO HUNT RATS.

.....

THIS IS THE ONIWABANSHŪ'S EX-KYOTO HQ... BUT IT'S ALSO JUST AN INN.

IT'S LIKE A *RAT'S LAIR* NOW.

THERE'S NO NEED TO BRING IN THE TEN SWORDS.

WE'VE NO USE FOR ANYONE OTHER THAN THE OLD MAN.

KILL EVERYONE ELSE. GOT IT?

GOT IT.

NOW. DISPERSE.

MWP...

!?!

.....

WHO ARE YOU—?

ANSWER!

WELL ?

KK!

KKKK

—THE QUESTION !!!

ANSWER—

UH?

DAMN!

スッ

WELL?

I'M GUESSING YOU'RE SHISHIO'S MEN.

BUT WHAT'S YOUR GOAL?

葵屋

WHY COME AFTER AOI-YA?

!

DON'T BOTHER. YOUR FRIENDS ARE ALL SLEEPING.

FALLS SILENT AND DOESN'T TALK. YOU'RE A SMART ONE.

STILL...

YOU!

ｽｯ

K— K—

WE'RE NOT OGRES. C'MON, YOU CAN TELL *US*.

HM.

ﾍﾞｰ

ONLY A *FOOL* RESISTS *ME.*

ONCE THEY CALLED ME THE MOST *HORRIFIC* OF THE ONIWABANSHŪ.

OKON. BRING THE CANDLE AND THE LONG NAILS.

H... HŌJI-SAMA!

カリ カリ!!

WHAT ARE THEY DOING?

...THEY'RE LATE.

A...
AGH...

NOON. I AWAIT YOU AT THE USUAL PLACE. COME ALONE.
-OKINA

IT...
CAN'T
BE.

THE OWL CLAN... ANNIHILATED ?

AS EXPECTED, I'LL HAVE TO FIGHT...

...BY MYSELF.

OKINA WAS MY MASTER—THE ONLY ONE WHO MIGHT EQUAL THE LATE HEAD OF THE ONIWABANSHŪ.

NOT EVEN YOUR PRECIOUS JUPPON-GATANA WILL BE ABLE TO BEAT *HIM.*

SOME OWLS YOU'VE GOT. EATEN BY *RATS.*

...I TOLD YOU BEFORE, AOSHI.

ドサッ

...I WILL CRUSH YOU!!

IF YOU FORGET THE DIGNITY OF THE ONIWABANSHU AND BECOME JUST ANOTHER KILLER...

THIS WAS DONE BY KOJOZERO SCANS

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AOSHI

蒼紫

SHISHIO

志々雄

KENSHIN

剣心

OKINA

翁

Act 89
Aoshi vs. Okina

THE KYOTO ONIWABANSHŪ'S "PLACE OF SIGHT."

A NATURAL RISE FROM WHICH ALL KYOTO IS VISIBLE.

HF

HF

LIAR!!!

HF

HF

HF

HAN'NYA-KUN AND THE REST CAN'T BE DEAD! IT'S A LIE!!

OOH, HARSH...

ESPECIALLY TO BESHIMI AND HYOTTOKO!

...BUT HAN'NYA-KUN?! HE WOULD NEVER GO LIKE THAT!

I CAN BELIEVE IT ABOUT BESHIMI AND HYOTTOKO ...

I'M SORRY. HAN'NYA AND THE OTHER THREE DIED PROTECTING SHINOMORI AOSHI.

BUT EVEN HAN'NYA COULDN'T WIN AGAINST THE GATLING GUN.

I SAW HIS STRENGTH WITH MY OWN EYES.

IT'S TRUE...

...ALL FOUR ARE GONE.

BUT THIS COULDN'T HAVE COME AT A WORSE TIME.

SHINOMORI AOSHI IS AFTER KENSHIN TO PROVE THAT THE ONIWABANSHŪ ONMITSU ARE THE "ULTIMATE."

MISAO-CHAN!

KENSHIN KNOWS ABOUT IT...I GUESS IT'S SOMETHING HE HIMSELF TOLD AOSHI TO DO.

THEY *CAN'T* ALL BE DEAD!

I CAN'T BELIEVE IT! I *WON'T* BELIEVE IT!!

THE OLD MAN'S INFORMATION NETWORK WILL KNOW IF IT'S TRUE OR NOT!

OKINA!

料亭 葵屋

OKINA!

OKINA!

WHERE'S THE OLD MAN?!

HUH?

MISAO-CHAN?

HE'S... OUT FOR A BIT...

OH, YES. OKINA.

MISAO-CHAN!

UM...OKINA WAS PLAYING "SEXY COMMANDO" IN HIS SLEEP...?

...WHAT HAPPENED TO THE FLOOR?

OH.

...TELL ME, OMASU.

MISAO-CHAN..

WHERE IS HE? AND WHAT'S HE DOING?!

.....

...HIS OLD *SHINOBI* OUTFIT!

IT CAN'T BE FOR *NOTHING* IF THE OLD MAN'S BROUGHT OUT...

THE PLANS TO BRING DOWN OUR FORMER COMRADE...

...ARE IN PLACE.

ARE YOU READY, AOSHI?

YES...

DUAL-HELD KODACHI!

YOU'VE ATTAINED THE SKILL OF THE FORMER OKASHIRA ON YOUR OWN...YOU ARE A GENIUS.

BUT, AS GREAT A GENIUS AS YOU ARE, ONCE CORRUPTED...

...YOU WILL BRING ONLY *HARM* TO OTHERS.

I WILL HAVE TO DESTROY YOU.

I, THE "HYAKUSHIKI" OF THE JUPPONGATANA, WISH TO MAKE UP FOR THIS PERSONALLY.

I APOLOGIZE.

I UNDER-ESTIMATED THEIR STRENGTH.

YOUR AOI-YA ATTACK *FAILED.*

SHINOMORI AOSHI WAS CALLED OUT. YES?

THERE'S NO NEED FOR THAT.

NOT IF YOU VALUE YOUR LIFE.

ビクッ

DON'T BUTT IN ON THAT MAN'S BUSINESS.

MM-

YES.

BUT...

ﾊﾟｼｯ

.....

NO.

GOOD PEOPLE AND BAD, WE'RE ALL JUST LUMPS OF MEAT. WHEN WE DIE, WE ALL ROT EQUALLY.

HELL... YOU SAY?

MM.

BY THE WAY, HŌJI...

DO YOU BELIEVE IN HELL?

YES?

...THE TRUTH IS, I DO BELIEVE IN HELL.

...STILL ... THAT'S JUST LIKE YOU TO THINK SO PRAG-MATICALLY.

THE MEN OF THE MEIJI GOVERNMENT ENGULFED ME IN *FLAMES* IN ORDER TO HIDE THEIR OWN EVILDOINGS.

AS AN ASSASSIN, HIMURA BATTŌSAI BECAME A *LEGEND*.

SHINOMORI AOSHI SAYS HE EXISTS ONLY TO KILL BATTŌSAI. AND OKINA DROPPED HIS GRANDFATHERLY MASK TO DESTROY AOSHI.

HM ?

...DESERVES TO BE CALLED HELL, DON'T YOU THINK?

THIS WORLD, WHERE THE DEVILS SWARM, WASHING BLOOD WITH BLOOD...

YOU WOULDN'T *SURVIVE* A HELL LIKE THAT.

I DON'T THINK YOU HAVE QUITE THE PREPARATION YOU NEED.

!

...IS TO BE BAPTIZED.

HŌJI, WHAT YOU NEED...

AOSHI, LET'S GO!!

SOME-
THING
HIDDEN
IN HIS
SLEEVES—

!

NNGH!!

TONFA!!

……

……

YOUR "NITŌ-RYŪ" DUAL-KODACHI...

...DOESN'T WORK ON ME.

YOU'VE HEARD THE STORY ABOUT ME BEING THE ONLY ONE TO STAND AGAINST THE FORMER OKASHIRA.

THESE STEEL TONFA EXPLAIN THAT.

ふっ...

ZZZ

YOU'RE VERY ADEPT AT THAT. CONFUSING YOUR OPPONENT'S VISION BY MIXING SLOW AND RAPID MOTIONS.

RYŪSUI NO UGOKI—"FLOW OF THE RIVER-CURRENT."

THERE!

BUT, HOWEVER YOU MOVE AROUND, DO YOU THINK I WOULD—

—MISS THE MOMENT YOU MOVE INTO YOUR *ATTACK*?

HAH !!!

MG!

SHADOW LIGHT CROSS!

陰陽交叉 (おんみょうこうさ)

KODACHI NITŌ-RYŪ...

小太刀二刀流 (こだちにとうりゅう)

...OF THE FORMER OKASHIRA, THAT DOESN'T WORK.

BUT IT IS THE NITŌ-RYŪ...

...OR HIMURA BATTŌSAI...

WHETHER IT BE STEEL, A FORMER COMRADE...

THERE'S *NOTHING* MY DUAL-KODACHI...

...WILL NOT SLICE.

THIS WAS DONE BY KOJOZERO SCANS

EDITED BY: KOJOZERO
AND ANONYMOUS SUSHI

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THAT'S WHERE THE OLD MAN AND AOSHI-SAMA ARE FIGHTING!

THE PLACE OF SIGHT!

I HAVE TO STOP THEM!

I HAVE TO STOP THEM, NO MATTER WHAT!

IF THEY FIGHT FOR REAL, THEY'RE *BOTH* GOING TO DIE!

BUT I HAVE TO LET HER DO EVERYTHING SHE CAN.

SHE WON'T MAKE IT IN TIME.

...I KNOW.

SHOULD YOU LET...? THEY'LL...

Act 90
Finale of Fresh Blood

THE PERSON SHE ADMIRES MOST, AND THE PERSON SHE LOVES MOST...

...EITHER WAY, SHE'LL LOSE ONE OF THEM.

HE TURNED HIMSELF INTO A DEVIL BY CASTING OUT HIS EMOTIONS... AND SO DREW OUT ALL HIS POTENTIAL POWERS.

HMPH.

HE'S GOOD! NO COMPARISON TO THE AOSHI I KNEW.

...I WILL END IT HERE.

TELL ME WHERE BATTŌSAI IS, OKINA. THEN...

ﾌｯ...

ﾌｯ...

...UNLIKE YOU...WILL NEVER SELL HIS COMRADES.

...TO THE ENEMY!

I MAY BE AN *OLD* SOLDIER. BUT OKINA OF THE ONIWABAN-SHŪ...

...YOU TAKE ME LIGHTLY.

I'LL DEFEAT YOU HERE.

THEN I'LL GO TO AOI-YA AND QUESTION THE FOUR HIDING THERE.

ALL RIGHT.

AND I... WILL NOT... LET YOU!!

AOSHI, ALREADY YOUR STRENGTH IS FAR BEYOND THAT OF THE PREVIOUS OKASHIRA.

BUT, BECAUSE OF THAT, I MUST— EVEN IF IT COSTS MY LIFE—

—DEFEAT YOU HERE.

...AND TO PROTECT JAPAN FROM THE DEVIL SHISHIO.

FOR HIMURA-KUN...

……

AHHHH!!!

AHHHH!!!

SILENCE.

ガバ

ガバ

ガバ

ガバ

UNH...

AH...

WH-WHAT IS THIS?!

HOW... CAN A MAN BE SO...SO HOT...?!

!!!!!

...EVERY SWEAT DUCT IN ME WAS DESTROYED.

TEN YEARS AGO, WHEN MY WHOLE BODY WAS BURNED...

MY DOCTORS SAY THAT MY BODY TEMPERATURE IS INCOMPATIBLE WITH LIFE.

I'VE NEVER BEEN ABLE TO REGULATE MY TEMPERATURE THROUGH SWEATING SINCE.

...LINGERS THE HEAT OF INFERNAL FLAMES.

IN MY BODY...

THAT FIRE KEEPS BURNING NOT ONLY MY ARM...

...BUT MY LEGS, ABDOMEN, CHEST, ALL OF ME.

...HERE, TOO.

OF COURSE...

...VOICES THAT, ONE DAY, STARTED TELLING ME THE TRUTH.

THOSE FLAMES THAT NEVER DIE BECAME VOICES...

るろうに剣心
—明治剣客浪漫譚—

EVERY MAN IS TRULY A DEVIL. AND THIS WORLD IS HELL ITSELF.

"A NATION WHERE ONLY THE DEVILS DESERVE TO LIVE...

BOTH ARE SMALL, AND BOTH ARE WEAK.

HIMURA BATTŌSAI IS *DENYING* HIS TRUE NATURE, CLINGING TO *DELUSIONS.*

"...NOW THAT IS A MUCH MORE *FITTING* HELL."

WITHIN THE FLAMES, THE VOICE ROUGHENS.

"THIS IS NOT RIGHT."

THE GOVERNMENT TRIES TO CONCEAL ITS EVILDOINGS AND DECEIVE PEOPLE THAT THIS MEIJI JAPAN IS AN IDEAL COUNTRY.

WHILE I SERVED AS A GOVERNMENT OFFICIAL, EVERY MAN I MET WAS A FOOL UNWORTHY OF LEAVING THIS COUNTRY TO.

THREE YEARS AGO, I WANDERED IN DESPAIR INTO THE WILDERNESS.

NO... JUST THE OPPOSITE. I'M TREMBLING IN DELIGHT...

...YOU ARE TREMBLING AGAIN, HŌJI.

ARE YOU AFRAID OF ME?

THIS MAN I AM *HONORED* TO JOIN, IN BUILDING A NEW JAPAN!

BUT AT LAST I HAVE MET A MAN OF A CAPACITY GREATER THAN MY IMAGINATION CAN HOLD.

YOUR PREPARATION... ...HAS BEEN ACCOMPLISHED.

THE BIRTH OF ANOTHER LOYAL DEVIL—

I'M COUNTING ON YOU, HŌJI.

YES, SIR!

NGAAH!!

IT'S NO USE. YOU HAVE NO CHANCE OF WINNING WITH JUST ONE TONFA.

YOU FELL FOR IT, AOSHI.

AT THIS CLOSE DISTANCE, IT DOESN'T MATTER IF IT'S ONE TONFA—NOT IF I GIVE IT ALL MY MIGHT!!

FU

円殺輪舞

WHAT'S THAT ...?!

DEADLY STEEL SPIRAL!

REVERSE HOLD ON THE KODACHI!!

KODACHI...

...KAITEN-KEN!

TH-THIS FORM IS THE MOVE...

...NITŌ-RYŪ...

!!

...SIX SUCCESSIONS!

SPIRAL SWORD-DANCE...

六連 ろくれん

回天剣舞 かいてんけんぶ

HH
HH
HH
HH
..I'M..
...HERE...
HH

IT'S OVER.

ガッ

THIS WAS DONE BY KOJOZERO SCANS

EDITED BY: KOJOZERO
AND ANONYMOUS SUSHI

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Act 91

Misao's Decision

るろうに剣心

RUROUNI KENSHIN

巻町操

MAKIMACHI MISAO

MEANING... IT WON'T BE A SURPRISE IF HE DIES ANY MOMENT.

NOT HOLDING ANYTHING BACK AT ALL...

.....

THE TOTAL NUMBER OF STITCHES IS 138.

FROM WHAT THE DOCTOR SAYS, IT'S A MIRACLE HE'S ALIVE.

14

IT'S OVER.

AOSHI-SAMA!!

HH...

HH...

HH...

OH

GET OUT.

NEVER SHOW YOUR FACE IN FRONT OF ME AGAIN.

NAH, SHE'S GOT WAY MORE BALLS 'N THAT.

PROB-ABLY.

...IS SHE CRYING?

hii...

AND WHAT DO YOU MEAN BY "BALLS," ANYWAY?!

OF *COURSE* SHE'S CRYING!! SHE'S A 16-YEAR-OLD GIRL!!

NO MATTER *HOW* TOUGH SHE SEEMS ON THE OUTSIDE, ON THE INSIDE SHE'S STILL A *CHILD*!!

SHUT UP, ALL OF YOU!!

...I GUESS IT'S BEST NOT TO TALK JUST NOW.

.....

NOT WHEN SHE'S STILL TRYING TO SORT HER FEELINGS.

NO.

AND WHERE'S MISAO ?!

SHE WENT TO STOP THEM.

SHINOMORI AOSHI AND THE OLD MAN— *HERE?!*

SHE CAN WAIT A BIT TO HEAR WHAT HAPPENED NEXT.

BUT EVEN WITH HER SPEED...

...IT MUST HAVE BEEN DECIDED BY NOW.

KLIK

葵屋

YOU ALL KNOW ...

...OF HIMURA BATTŌSAI'S WHERE-ABOUTS.

!!

...HERE, MEANING THAT...

O-OKASHIRA...

IF... OKINA CAN'T BEAT HIM...

...THEN EVEN ALL OF US TOGETHER ...

WHAT DO WE DO...?

...OR I WILL KILL YOU.

ANSWER ...

OKINA...

YOU'VE HIT A NEW LOW.

SHINOMORI AOSHI.

!

HAH

るろうに剣心
―明治剣客浪漫譚―

YOU ALSO KNOW OF BATTŌSAI'S WHERE-ABOUTS.

YOU ARE BOLD, AS USUAL.

……

葵 料亭

葵屋

I WON'T TELL, EVEN IF YOU KILL ME.

I DO KNOW. BUT KENSHIN'S IN THE MIDDLE OF IMPORTANT TRAINING.

DON'T WASTE YOUR SWORD UNTIL THEN.

JUST AS YAHIKO SAYS.

AND HE'LL *FINISH* YOU, TOO!

LISTEN!! YOU DON'T HAVE TO GO LOOKING FOR HIM— HE'S COMING BACK TO SETTLE WITH YOU!

THE SWORD YOU SWING NOW IS A CURSED SWORD.

...MY ONLY GOAL IS TO KILL BATTŌSAI.

CURSED SWORD OR NOT...

IT MAKES EVERYONE UNHAPPY, WITH EVERY SWING.

I'LL BE WAITING IN SHISHIO'S LAIR.

CONVEY THAT TO BATTŌSAI.

I WONDER WHAT WILL HAPPEN FROM HERE...

AOSHI-SAMA HAS FALLEN ONTO THE DEVIL'S PATH COMPLETELY.

DUNNO.

LET'S JUST WAIT FOR MISAO TO PULL HERSELF TOGETHER.

IT'S OKINA'S LETTER HE WANTED YOU TO HAVE IT...

...IN CASE ANY-THING...

TO MISAO

SHE'S DOWN.

"PRETTY"

HUH?

CIAO MISAO

ちゃお

MY BELOVED

愛しの

まいぷりてぃ

MY PRETTY

操

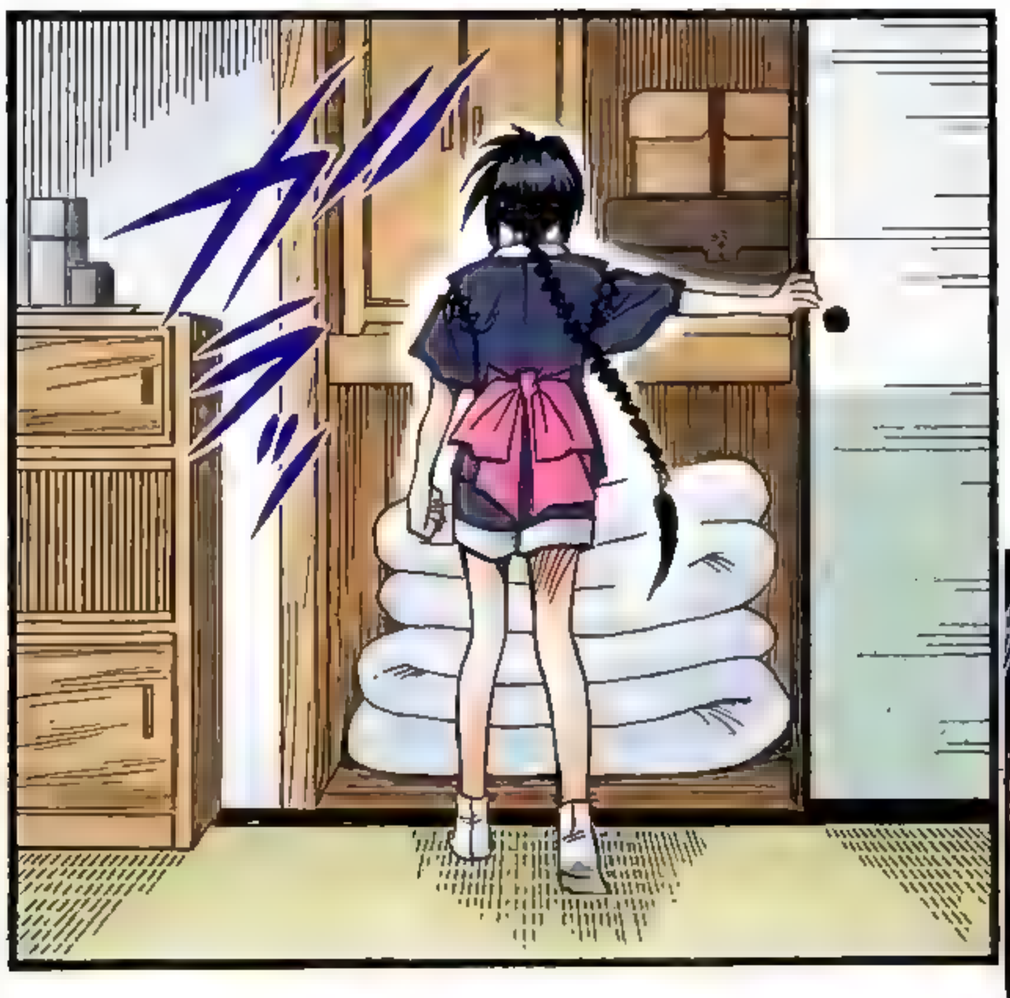
BUT THERE IS NO NEED TO MOURN. AS I WAS PREPARING TO DEFEAT THE ENEMY, I ALSO WAS PREPARING TO BE DEFEATED.

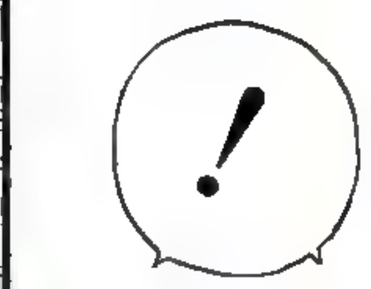
CIAO MISAO♡ (MY BELOVED, MY PRETTY). IF YOU ARE READING THIS, I PRESUME I AM ALREADY NOT OF THIS WORLD.

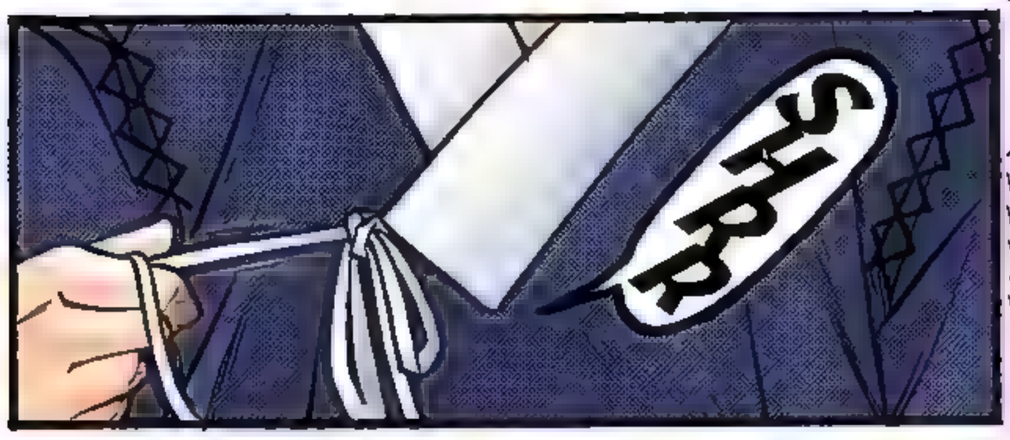
FORGET ABOUT ONIWABANSHŪ AND AOSHI. GO BACK TO BEING A NORMAL GIRL WITH A NORMAL LIFE, AND FIND YOUR OWN HAPPINESS.

LEAVE THE REST TO HIMURA-KUN, AND REMOVE YOURSELF FROM THIS DANGEROUS LIFE.

THE ONI-WABANSHŪ ONMITSU WILL DISBAND, AS OF TODAY.



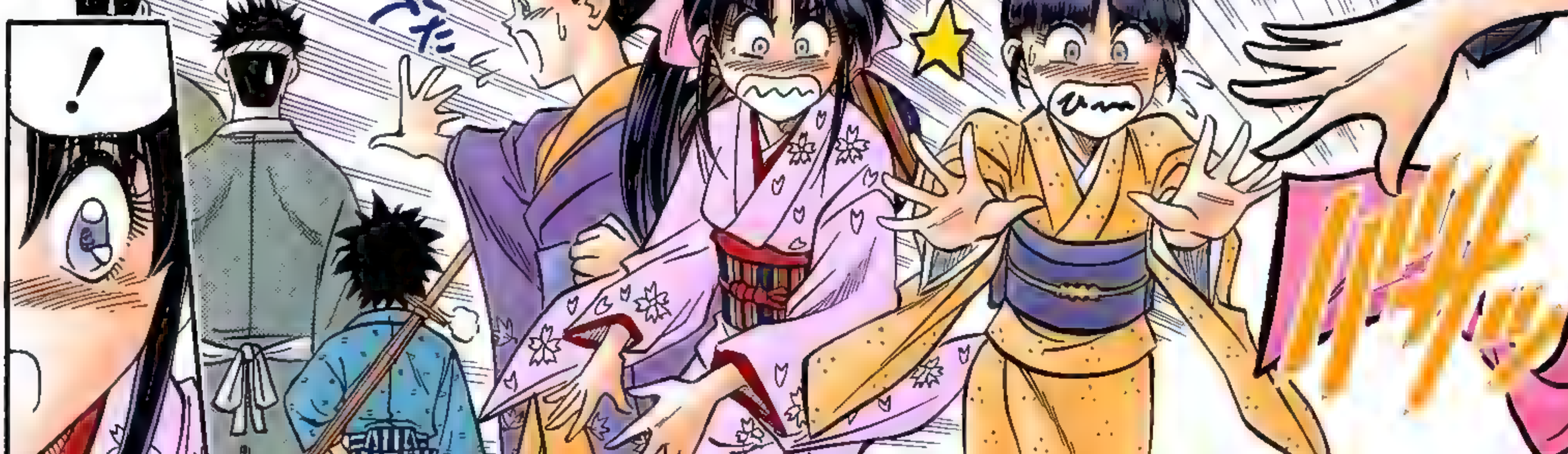




ALL YOU MEN, FACE THE OTHER WAY!

WHAT ARE YOU GOING CRAZY ABOUT?!

MISAO, STOP! IT ISN'T LADY-LIKE!!



SHINOBI... OUTFIT?

MISAO-CHAN...?

...OLD MAN.

SORRY...

MY HEART HAS AND ALWAYS WILL BE THE ONI-WABANSHŪ'S!

ALL RIGHT, EVERYONE. THE ONIWABANSHŪ IS THE SAME AS BEFORE.

WE WILL BE HIMURA'S STRENGTH, AND END SHISHIO'S MAD AMBITION.

I WAS BORN AND RAISED BY THE ONIWABANSHŪ. THE MEMBERS ARE FAMILY AND FRIENDS I CAN'T *REPLACE* WITH ANYONE ELSE.

WHAT?!

WHOEVER THE ENEMY WILL BE... EVEN AOSHI-SAMA...

...YES, EVEN IF IT IS SHINOMORI AOSHI...I WILL DEFEAT THEM!!

I WILL *PROTECT* THE ONI-WABANSHŪ.

I *WON'T* LET ANYONE ELSE DIE.

とぉ!!

...I AM THE NEW OKASHIRA !!

STARTING TODAY, REPLACING SHINOMORI AOSHI..

DING!

KID

BE

TO

GOT

YOU'VE

WHAAAAAAAT?

I'M NOT "MISAO"! FROM NOW ON, I'M THE *OKASHIRA*!!

IT'S TRUE, MISAO-CHAN, YOU NEED TO STAY CALM—

THIS IS CRAZY! DON'T EVEN TRY IT!!

……

……

MUST'VE BEEN A LONG TRIP. I WAS WORRIED. YOU TOOK LONGER THAN PLANNED.

THERE WAS...AN INCIDENT.

—A POLICE DEPART-MENT IN KYOTO—

ALSO, CHIEF...

WHERE IS THIS SWORDSMAN OF SHISHIO'S YOU'VE CAUGHT?

OH, YEAH. HE'S THERE AT THE VERY END.

HOLD ON A MINUTE, FUJITA.

HE'S SINCE SETTLED IN FOR THE LONG HAUL, AND WON'T BUDGE.

WE THREW A GUY IN HERE WHO CAUSED A FIGHT A WEEK AGO.

WOULD YOU MIND, IF IT'S NOT TOO MUCH...?

CAN I ASK YOU A FAVOR FIRST?

I FIGURED THIS WOULD BE THE QUICKEST ROUTE TO KENSHIN.

ALL THE SEARCHING I COULD HAVE DONE...AND I GET A HOLD OF YOU BY VISITING A JAIL.

HEH HEH. JUST AS I THOUGHT.

YOU...

SAGARA SANOSUKE MAKES HIS BIG KYOTO ENTRANCE!

THAT'S RIGHT.

THIS WAS DONE BY KOJOZERO SCANS

EDITED BY: KOJOZERO
AND ANONYMOUS SUSHI

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Act 92

A Bird and a Broom

RUROUNI KENSHIN

SAGARA SANOSUKE

WE WERE BETTING ON WHETHER YOU'D COME TO KYOTO OR NOT.

I SHOULD'VE REALIZED YOU WOULD NEVER HAVE JUST SENT OUT KENSHIN, THEN TURN A BLIND EYE.

I GOT LOST AT ONE POINT. HAD SOME STUFF POINTED OUT TO ME. IT WAS TOUGH.

?

KENSHIN, NOW...HE TOOK THE EASIER EAST SEA ROAD, SO SUCK ON THAT BEFORE YOU START POINTING FINGERS, HUH?

WHAT, NOT HAPPY TO SEE ME?

I GOT HERE WALKING THE TREACHEROUS NAKASEN ROAD, TRAINING ALL THE WHILE.

BETCHA CAN'T WAIT TO TASTE THE FRUITS OF MY TRAINING!!

SO HOW NOW, SAITŌ !!

NEVER SEEN HIM.

NO.

...SAITŌ? YOU KNOW HIM?

EITHER WAY, HE'S ANNOYING. LET HIM COOL HIS HEELS.

SURE.

HE'S EITHER MISTAKEN, OR SICK IN THE HEAD.

WAIT A MINUTE! HEY!

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HERE GOES!

IF YOU WON'T OPEN IT, I'LL DO IT MYSELF!

RUNNING AWAY, HUH?!

SEE?

TOLD YA.

...AND I'LL BUST *YOU* DOWN, JUST AS EASY.

TAKE ME FOR THE SAME AS BEFORE...

GO ON AND WAIT UP-STAIRS.

LEAVE HIM TO ME.

...CHIEF.

WHY, YOU...!

WITH AS MUCH AS I HAVE TO ASK YOU...

...STILL SETTLING OUR SCORE FROM TOKYO COMES FIRST.

—HEY.

...I SEE. THE CONCEPT IS LIKE "SUKASHI" IN KARATE.

OF COURSE, THE FORCE IS TOTALLY DIFFERENT ...

...WHAT ABOUT THE ABCs OF *DEFENSE* I TALKED TO YOU ABOUT?

ALSO...

FEH! WHY WOULD I LISTEN TO YOUR ADVICE?!

.....

I FIGHT THE WAY I WANT TO!

DEFENSE ISN'T PART OF MY NATURE!

SHORT-HANDED AS WE ARE DUE TO A CERTAIN INCIDENT...

...STILL YOU'RE NOT MUCH HELP.

YOU'RE RUNNING AWAY AGAIN!!

TSK.

THAT MEANS I WIN BY DEFAULT!

GOOD!

.....

NO, I'M BUSY.

I HAVE NO TIME FOR PLAY WITH YOU.

IF YOU LIKE.

SO
SO

FIGHT! FIGHT!! FIGHT ME!!

ARGH! DAMMIT, THAT'S NO GOOD!!

ミリ ミリ ミリ ミリ

……!

THE MAN BATTŌSAI CAPTURED SOON AFTER HIS ARRIVAL IN KYOTO—

…OF COURSE. THE MAN IN THERE IS NOW THE BIGGEST DANGER HERE.

WHY IS THAT ONE DOOR SO MUCH *STURDIER* THAN THE REST…?

ゴゴゴ

TO WIT, "SWORD HUNTER" CHŌ.

THE SPECIAL UNIT DIRECTLY UNDER SHISHIO...

...ONE OF HIS "JUPPONGATANA" TEN SWORDS.

CAN'T YOU KEEP IT DOWN?

I WAS HAVING A NICE NAP.

...YOU TWO WERE PRETTY ROWDY OUT THERE.

COCKY, AREN'T YOU.

IS THERE ANYONE UNDER SHISHIO WHO COULD HAVE DONE THAT?

WE HAVE ANY NUMBER WHO COULD.

OH, THAT'S EASY.

THE UNIT THAT HAD JUST FINISHED GATHERING TO FIGHT AGAINST SHISHIO, 50 SWORDSMEN HAND-PICKED BY MYSELF FROM THE ARMY AND POLICE, WERE ANNIHILATED IN ONE NIGHT BY ONE MAN.

AS A RESULT, WE'VE LOST MOST OF OUR FORCES.

FIRST, A FEW QUESTIONS.

YOU CAN ASK ALL YOU WANT.

THIS HAPPENED THE OTHER DAY IN KOBE.

SO YOU WON'T BE SERIOUS.

I'M HURT. I *AM* BEING SERIOUS!

...HE COULD EAT 50 GUYS FOR *BREAKFAST.*

OL' CHŌ HERE, RIGHT BEFORE YOUR EYES...

EVEN IF YOU *ARE* RELEASED, NO WAY THEY LET AN IDIOT WHO GETS CAUGHT BY THE ENEMY GO FREE.

...YOU'RE AFRAID OF SHISHIO.

IN OTHER WORDS ...

PASS. NEVER LIKED IT MUCH OUTSIDE, ANYWAY.

I COULD PULL THE RIGHT STRINGS AND HAVE YOU RELEASED...*WITH* THE RIGHT ANSWERS.

RIGHT NOW, THERE'S NO SAFER PLACE TO BE.

YOU'RE THE ONE WHO'S OBNOXIOUS.

WHO IS THIS BIRD-HEAD?!

JUST A BROOM-HEAD COWARD, SQUAWKING AWAY.

HE'S OB-NOXIOUS.

YOUR LUCK'S RUN OUT.

I'VE BEEN IN A BAD MOOD EVER SINCE I GOT TO KYOTO.

ちぶ

I'M NOT AFRAID OF SHISHIO-SAMA... OR DEATH, EITHER.

WHAT'S SCARY IS BEING ORDERED AROUND BY BORES LIKE YOU.

.....

...LET'S HAVE IT OUT IN A STRAIGHT-UP FIGHT, BROOM-HEAD!!

WHETHER I'M "BORING" OR NOT...

THAT'S JUST FINE WITH ME...

...BIRD-HEAD!!

BUT NO CRYING AFTER I BEAT YOU TO A BLOODY PULP!

ALL RIGHT. YOU WIN. AND I'LL ANSWER YOUR QUESTIONS.

BIRD!

BIRD!

BROOM!

BROOM!

...DON'T LET YOUR CONFIDENCE RUN AWAY WITH YOU.

PULL YOUR FINGER OUT AND GIVE THE SIGNAL!

HEY! BAMBOO-CURTAIN HEAD!

ORAAA
AH!!
I TOLD YOU...!
...ON THE SHACKLE!
THE IRON BALL...

DON'T COME CRYIN' WHEN I BEAT YOU TO A—

WHAT ?!

HOHHH!

IT'S HARDLY A "STRAIGHT-UP FIGHT" WITH YOU IN SHACKLES.

!

HMPH.

THE LEG-IRONS CAN COME OFF TOO, IF YOU LIKE.

YOU...WERE GOING FOR THE SHACKLES TO BEGIN WITH...!

LET'S START OVER.

...HUNH.

I'LL ANSWER YOUR QUESTIONS, BUT ONLY TO MAKE YOU LEAVE.

I CAN'T *STAND* PEOPLE LIKE YOU.

ANOTHER BORE.

WHAT ?!

!

ALL RIGHT THEN, I'LL START.

SO THE OTHER GUY WON AFTER ALL!!

TWO QUESTIONS.

THE OTHER'S ABOUT SHISHIO'S "KYOTO DESTRUCTION PLAN."

ONE'S WHAT I JUST ASKED YOU.

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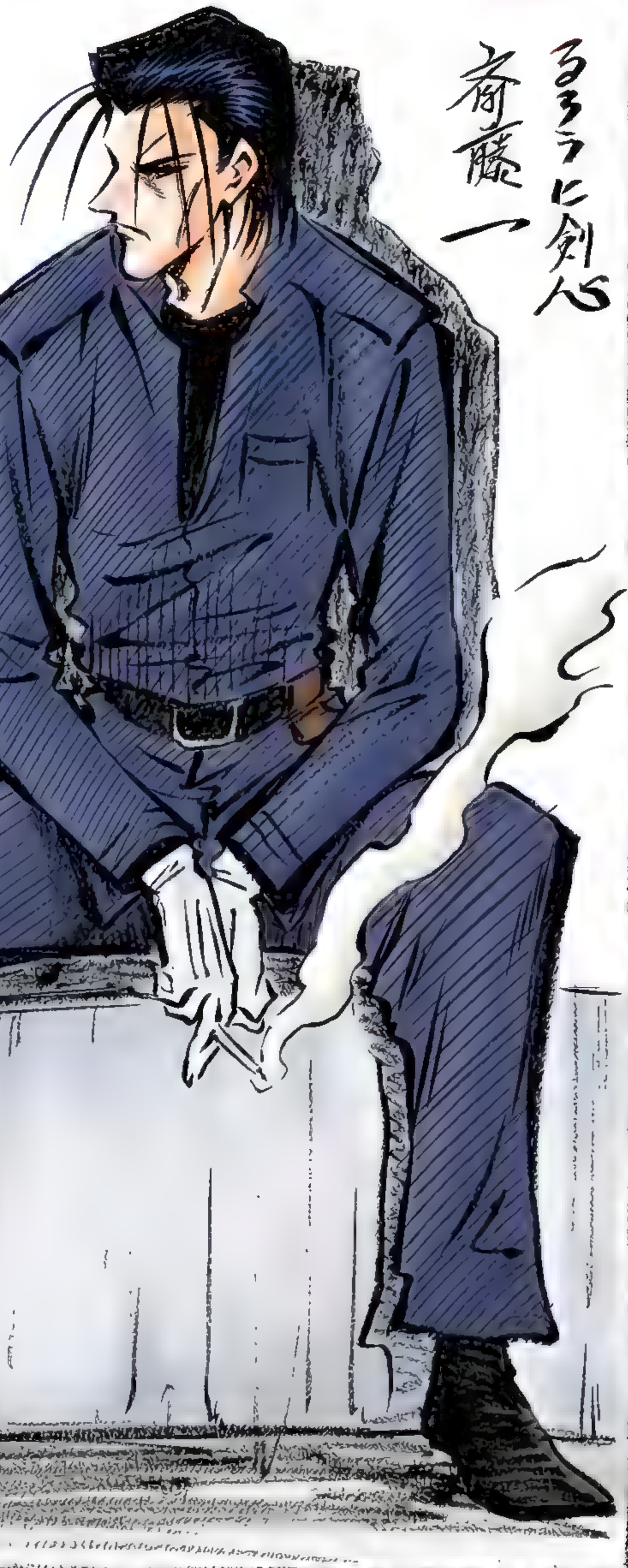

RUROUNI KENSHIN

SAITŌ HAJIME

Act 93

The Man Named Usui

KILLING 50 WELL-TRAINED MEN IN ONE NIGHT.

TWO OF THE JUPPONGATANA COULD DO IT.

MEANING, *ANY* OF THE TEN SWORDS COULD, THEN.

AND WHY IS THAT?!

DONE OVER ONE NIGHT, AND WITHOUT WITNESSES. THAT'D GIVE HIM A ONE-TO-TWO HOUR WINDOW.

COULD'VE DONE IT MYSELF, IF THERE WEREN'T A TIME-LIMIT.

TWO... THAT'S NOT TOO MANY.

WELL... YOU'RE THE *WEAKEST* OF THEM, RIGHT?

ONE OF THE TWO IS TENKEN OR "HEAVEN'S SWORD" SŌJIRŌ. THE ONE WHO'S ALWAYS SMILING.

JUST FINISH THE STORY, WILL YOU...?

I'D LOVE TO, BROOM-HEAD!!

FIGHT ME, BIRD-HEAD!!

WE HAVE *GOT* TO SETTLE THIS.

THOUGHT IT WAS HIM...

DUNNO IF IT'S 'CAUSE OF THAT OR NOT, BUT STILL HE'S THE MOST TRUSTED OF THE JUPPONGATANA—HAND-PICKED FOR THE ŌKUBO TOSHIMICHI ASSASSINATION.

HE'S YOUNG, BUT HE'S BEEN WITH SHISHIO THE LONGEST—GOING BACK TO THE DAYS WHEN SHISHIO'S BURNS WEREN'T YET HEALED, AND HE WAS STILL FLEEING FROM THE GOVERNMENT'S PURSUIT.

AFTER ŌKUBO'S ASSASSINATION, SŌJIRŌ TRAVELED ALL OVER EASTERN JAPAN, GATHERING SHISHIO'S TEN SWORDS.

TIME-WISE, HIS ATTACKING KOBE—WHICH OF COURSE IS ON THE OTHER SIDE OF THE COUNTRY—WOULD'VE BEEN IMPOSSIBLE.

HE'S NOT THE ONE YOU WANT, THOUGH.

QUIET, YOU.

THEN WHO IS IT?!

STOP STALLING AND SPILL.

RE-MEMBER YOUR PLACE!

.....

危険だから絶対喋らないでよ！

TO SUMMARIZE, THERE'S ANOTHER IN THE JUPPONGATANA EQUAL TO SETA SŌJIRŌ IN STRENGTH...

...AND HE'S THE KILLER.

YEAH, YOU GOT IT.

TRUE ENOUGH.

...IS THE MOST AFRAID.

AND IT'S HIM, OF ALL THE TEN SWORDS, OF WHOM SHISHIO-SAMA...

HE'S NOT HERE, EITHER. HE'S DIS-APPEARED!

THE INTRUDER IS GONE. WE'VE LOST HIM!

I SHALL SEND OUT THE JUPPON-GATANA FORTHWITH ...

...SO, PLEASE— BE PATIENT A WHILE LONGER.

WHERE IS THAT BOY WHEN YOU NEED HIM??

SINCERE APOLOGIES, SHISHIO-SAMA.

I IMAGINE HE'S STILL CLOSE AT HAND.

AND SINCE IT *IS* *HIM*...

WE CAN'T HAVE THE TEN SWORDS FIGHTING *EACH OTHER*.

THERE'S NO NEED.

!

"EACH OTHER" ...?

"HIM" ...?

CAN IT BE...?

SHISHIO-SAMA!!

YOU'VE IMPROVED... ONCE AGAIN.

IT WAS YOU...

..USUI!

USUI, THE...

..."BLIND SWORD."

MM. BEFORE THE REVOLUTION, HE WAS A GREAT SWORDSMAN HIRED BY THE GOVERNMENT AS AN ANTI-HITOKIRI.

HE HUNTED DOWN MANY WELL-KNOWN ASSASSINS. BUT, ONE DAY, HE FOUGHT AGAINST SHISHIO-SAMA...

...AND WAS INSTANTLY SLASHED IN BOTH EYES, LOSING HIS SIGHT.

HE'S SINCE BEEN TRAINING TO TAKE REVENGE ON SHISHIO-SAMA, REACHING THE ULTIMATE FORM OF KENJUTSU, "SHINGAN." AND NOW...

WHAT ARE YOU ANGRY ABOUT?!

RIGHT.

RIGHT?

THAT'S THE CONDITION UNDER WHICH I JOINED SHISHIO-SAMA.

ONCE THERE'S AN OPENING, I CAN ATTACK AT MY DISCRETION.

I'M ANGRY *ABOUT* YOU ACTING AS AN *INTRUDER* AND KILLING OUR *SOLDIERS!*

I *KNOW* ABOUT THAT!

HOW MANY TIMES HAVE I SAID, DO *NOT* ACT ON YOUR OWN?!

...OH YES, SPEAKING OF 50 MEN, THERE WAS A SUSPICIOUS GROUP GATHERING IN KOBE, SO I KILLED THEM.

WHAT'S 50 FOOT-SOLDIERS, GIVE OR TAKE A FEW?

SO IF I FIGHT AS 1,000 MEN, IT'S FINE?

IT'S *THOSE TWO* WHO ARE THE TEN SWORDS' GREATEST FOES.

!

USUI, WAS THERE A MAN WITH A CROSS-SHAPED SCAR ON HIS LEFT CHEEK...

...OR A TALL, THIN, WOLF-LIKE MAN IN THAT GROUP?

...WHAT'S 50 SOLDIERS, GIVE OR TAKE A FEW?

AS YOU YOURSELF PUT IT...

...SO, IN THAT SENSE, HE'S SAFER.

BUT NO WAY SŌJIRŌ MOVES WITHOUT SHISHIO-SAMA'S ORDER...

"TENKEN" SŌJIRŌ AND "BLIND SWORD" USUI...

THOSE TWO ARE DEFINITELY STRONGEST WITHIN THE TEN SWORDS.

AH, THEN WITH THOSE TWO...AND YOU...

...ONCE YOU THREE MEET, IT'S AS GOOD AS DONE.

...BUT I'D HAVE TO SAY USUI-SAN'S EVEN BETTER.

YOU'RE NO LIGHTWEIGHT YOURSELF...

.....

ALL RIGHT, THE OTHER QUESTION.

WE HAVE WORD THAT SHISHIO IS PLANNING TO DESTROY KYOTO, BUT WE HAVEN'T HEARD ANY DETAILS.

WHAT IS THIS PLAN?

INTERESTING INDEED.

HEH.

KNOW ANYTHING ABOUT IT?

...THE IKEDA-YA INCIDENT.

...I'VE HEARD OF IT, YES.

WELL...

DEIGNED THE "WOLVES OF MIBU" AND BRANDED A PACK OF MURDERERS, THE SHINSEN-GUMI PUT THEIR LIVES ON THE LINE TO PROTECT KYOTO FROM THE FLAMES. THIS WAS THEIR MOST GLORIOUS MOMENT, THE STORY THAT TELLS BEST OF THEIR MATCHLESS SKILLS IN COMBAT.

FIRST YEAR OF GENJI (1864). JUNE. AT THE INN "IKEDA-YA," A GROUP OF RADICAL REVOLUTIONISTS HOLD A SECRET MEETING, PLOT TO ENGULF KYOTO IN FLAMES, ASSASSINATE NOBLES AND GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS, AND TRANSFER THE EMPEROR TO CHŌSHŪ... BUT AN ATTACK BY THE SHINSENGUMI DERAILS THE PLAN. THIS IS WHAT THE WORLD KNOWS AS THE "IKEDA-YA INCIDENT."

AS SOON AS THE JUPPON-GATANA GATHER, IT WILL BE TIME.

A GRAND— AND HUGELY IRONIC— DECLARATION OF WAR. QUITE FITTING FOR SHISHIO-SAMA. *MM?*

SO DOES HE PLOT TO CARRY OUT THE HEINOUS ACT PLANNED BY THE PATRIOTS WHO ENGULFED HIM IN FLAME.

SETTING FIRE TO THE 1,000-YEAR-OLD CITY... THIS TIME, WITH NO SHINSEN-GUMI.

THAT IS SHISHIO-SAMA'S PLAN FOR KYOTO.

FIVE HUNDRED SOLDIERS WILL SIMULTANEOUSLY CREATE FLAMES ALL AROUND KYOTO, BURNING IT TO THE GROUND. AT THE SAME TIME AND IN THE MIDST OF THE CHAOS, THE JUPPONGATANA WILL MASSACRE ANY AND ALL GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS.

AND THAT DAY NEARS.

EVEN WITHOUT THAT, THIS "CASTLE CITY" IS A SYMBOL OF JAPAN, THE CITY IN WHICH ALL JAPANESE HAVE INVESTED THEIR HEARTS.

IF THE GOVERNMENT CAN'T PROTECT IT, THE PEOPLE'S TRUST WILL PLUMMET.

...I SEE. VERY WELL THOUGHT OUT. OF COURSE, THE EMPEROR HAS MOVED TO TOKYO...

...BUT, AS THERE'S YET TO BE AN OFFICIAL RELOCATION OF THE CAPITAL, THAT WOULD STILL BE KYOTO.

WHO CARES ABOUT THE GOVERNMENT!

OH, YOU'RE STILL HERE?

YES!

THOSE WHO'LL SUFFER WILL BE THE PEOPLE WHO *LIVE* HERE!

THOSE WHO WILL SUFFER MOST WHEN KYOTO BURNS WILL *NOT* BE GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS!

THEY'VE FINALLY GOT SOME HAPPINESS AND SAFETY IN THEIR LIVES, BUT THEIR "BETTERS" ARE *RUINING* IT AGAIN!

BLOODIED BY THE CHAOS OF BAKUMATSU, DESTROYED IN THE BOSHIN WAR...

...THEY HAVE *GOT* TO STOP PLAYING THESE GAMES!

SHISHIO AND THE REVOLUTIONARY ISHIN GOVERNMENT ...

ZAKI

I SWEAR IT ON THE "AKU" ON MY BACK...

I WILL *NOT* LET KYOTO GO UP IN FLAMES!

I DON'T CARE ABOUT OUR SCORE...

...BUT THAT *IS* SOME-THING THAT NEEDS DOING.

SAITŌ! SETTLING THE SCORE WITH YOU WILL HAVE TO WAIT.

FIRST WE HAVE TO FIND *KENSHIN!*

デジタルカラー版

るろうに剣心

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和月伸宏

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